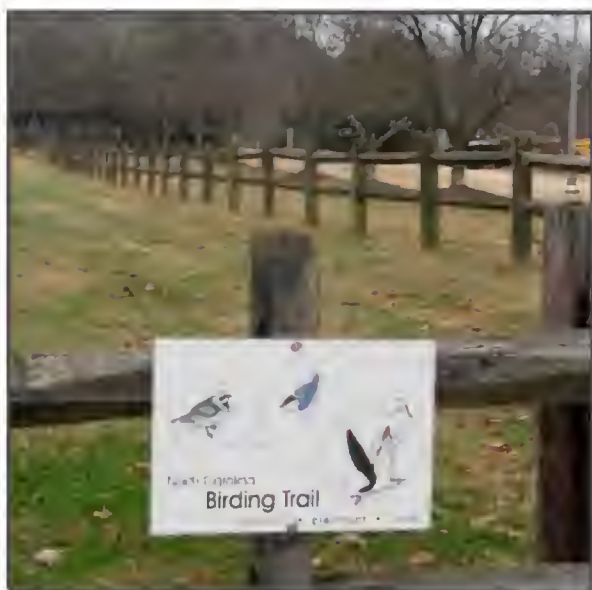


Winston-Salem to Host Spring Meeting—April 28th-29th

By Karyl Gabriel



North Carolina Birding Trail

Mark your calendars for the spring 2017 Carolina Bird Club meeting on April 28-29 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina! The North Carolina Piedmont is a great place to be for the spring migration. We will explore a variety of piedmont and pre-mountain habitats in and around Winston-Salem, including many on the NC Birding Trail and Pilot Mountain, which is designated as an Important Bird Areas. Full-day outings will even explore parts of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The last meeting in Winston-Salem was held in 2010 when participants tallied 127 species, including over twenty warbler species.

Joan Collins will be our featured speaker on Saturday evening. A passionate birder and ear-birder, Joan is a writer and speaker on ornithology topics for many organizations and



Featured Speaker Joan Collins

programs, a New York State licensed bird guide and owner of Adirondack Avian Expeditions. She is active in conservation and climate change work with a special love for the Bicknell's Thrush and Gray Jay. Joan is currently president of New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) and editor of NYSOA's newsletter *New York Birders*. Joan also belongs to the Adirondack 46ers, an intrepid group of hikers who have climbed all 46 peaks in the Adirondacks over 4,000 feet. The 46ers are dedicated to environmental protection and educating the public on the proper use of wilderness areas. /Continued P. 2

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Winston-Salem to Host Spring Meeting/Continued

By Karyl Gabriel

Home base for the weekend will be the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center in the heart of Winston-Salem, with easy on / off access to Business Route 40. The conference center has a 3-Diamond AAA rating, is NC Green Travel Certified and features free parking, business center and fitness center. The Bayberry Bistro on site specializes in American cuisine and serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and room service; guests can also have drink at the bar. The Hawthorne Inn is conveniently located close to interesting downtown dining and cultural attractions for birders and their non-birding companions alike - minutes away from historic Old Salem and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts and within easy driving distance of historic Bethabara, Reynolda House and its Museum of American Art and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA). Old Salem is the first Moravian settlement in the NC Piedmont founded in 1766.



Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center in the heart of Winston-Salem



Historic Old Salem, a nearby attraction for non-birding companions.

Rooms at the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center may be booked by calling (800) 972-3774 and asking for a room in the Carolina Bird Club block. Room rates are \$95 per night (excluding NC state tax of 6.75% and occupancy tax of 6%) and include a complimentary hot breakfast. This rate is good until March 4, 2017; please note that reservations made after the March 4, 2017 cut-off date are not guaranteed the CBC rate and are subject to space availability. All the rooms feature a microwave, refrigerator, coffee-maker, free WiFi and hairdryer.

We will have sessions both Friday and Saturday evenings. Saturday evening will feature a buffet dinner at the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center followed by a program and CBC general meeting. The buffet is priced at \$28 per person.

With beautiful scenery and birds, unique birding experiences, skilled leaders and a pleasant atmosphere, this will be another memorable CBC meeting! You'll find the registration information and trip descriptions in the next Newsletter.

Big Bend National Park Bonus Trip – May 5 -13

By Ron Clark

The Carolina Bird Club is pleased to offer a trip to central and southwest Texas, including the Edwards Plateau, Davis Mountains State Park and Big Bend National Park.



Big Bend National Park includes unparalleled mountain, desert, and river environments.

We'll be looking for many species of western birds and focusing on the few that can only be seen there. May is great as the birds have returned but it isn't seriously hot yet (above 95 degrees).



Edwards Plateau

We'll fly into San Antonio on the afternoon/evening of May 5th, with White-winged Doves and Great-tailed Grackles at the hotel. On Saturday morning, we'll head west to Texas Hill Country and Kerr Wildlife Management Area.

Our two top priority species here are Golden-cheeked Warbler, easy to see, and Black-capped Vireo, a notorious bush skulker. Central Texas is the only area in the U.S. where these birds are expected. Some others we should see include Black-chinned Hummingbird, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (a recent "split" from Western), Bushtit, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

Next stop is South Llano River State Park for Scissor-tailed and Vermillion Flycatchers, Green Kingfisher, Scott's Oriole, Canyon Towhee, Black-crested Titmouse, Verdin and Rufous-crowned, Lark and Black-throated Sparrows.



South Llano River State Park

We'll check the overpass at I-10 for Cave Swallow. This is the Mexican sub-species, a possible split from the Caribbean and Florida birds. We'll stay in Fort Stockton.

On Sunday, we'll drive to Davis Mountains State Park, where we'll stay for two nights. We'll be in a great area for Montezuma's Quail. On the way, we'll stop at Balmorhea Lake for Clark's Grebe. Aguja Canyon is next, good for Greater Roadrunner (22 seen on the 2015 trip), Verdin, Western Kingbird, Curve-billed and Sage Thrashers, Scaled Quail, Pyrrhuloxia, Bell's Vireo and Varied Bunting.

/Continued P. 4

Big Bend National Park Bonus Trip – May 5-13/Continued



Davis Mountains State Park

Birds in and around the park include Phainopepla, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Canyon, Rock and Bewick's Wrens, Western Tanager, Cassin's Kingbird, Canyon Towhee and Say's Phoebe. This park is one of the best spots for Montezuma's Quail, which sometimes come into the park host's feeding station. We'll keep an eye to the sky for Golden Eagle, Zone-tailed Hawk, Prairie Falcon and White-throated Swift, and see Elf Owls nesting in poles in the campground.

After we leave for Big Bend on Tuesday, we'll stop in the Christmas Mountains at a feeding station with nesting Lucifer Hummingbirds nearby. Then, it's on to the National Park for three nights in the Chisos Mountains.



Chisos Mountains

Along with the aforementioned birds, we can see Gray Hawk, Black-headed Grosbeak, Spotted Towhee, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Bronzed Cowbird, nesting Black Hawk, Scott's Oriole, Hutton's Vireo and Black-chinned Sparrow.

The star of the park is Colima Warbler, and this is the only spot in the U.S where you can expect to find it! A ten-mile roundtrip hike is required, but we'll start early and take all day if we need to.

One of the nights will be spent driving a few of the roads looking for Common Poorwill, which often sit on the pavement waiting for a meal to fly by, as opposed to the typical nightjar feeding method of flying with an open mouth. Big Bend is the darkest National Park in the lower 48. We'll be there at full moon, but we'll nonetheless look forward to some stargazing.

After birding the park on Friday morning, we'll start our way back toward San Antonio, stopping at Seminole Canyon State Park. Along with looking for birds, we'll go on a guided tour of 4000-year-old pictographs. That evening will include a site where we'll watch over a million Mexican Free-tailed Bats emerge from a cave for their nightly feeding. It's an amazing spectacle. Along with it, Red-tailed and Harris's Hawks come by for the buffet. On Saturday, we'll go to Lost Maples and Kickapoo Cavern State Parks. Both are also good for Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, just in case we missed one of them. Kickapoo is also good for Gray Vireo. We'll return to San Antonio for the night and fly home on Sunday the 14th.

The price for the trip is \$1,530 each for double occupancy, and \$635 for single supplement. This includes nine nights of lodging, ground transportation, entry fees, bat viewing and guided birded each day. You pay for airfare to San Antonio, any personal spending, two breakfasts, and other meals, except at Big Bend, which includes two lunches and three dinners.

The trip is limited to seven participants. A deposit of \$500, due by February 1st, will hold your spot, with the balance due by March 1st. If you must cancel, a full refund will be given by March 22nd. Cancellations after March 22nd allow for a refund only if someone is found to take your place. Registration starts on January 22nd.

The leader for the trip is Ron Clark. If you are interested or have any questions, contact him at waxwing@bellsouth.net.

Ron will send you the registration form and useful info and upon request a species list and photos from the last trip.

Snail Kite at Lake Conestee Nature Park: Sometimes it really is a zebra!

By Paul Serridge, Greenville, SC

Photos courtesy of Anthony Q. Martin, Greenville, SC



Snail Kite photographed by Anthony Q. Martin at Lake Conestee Nature Park.

A few years ago I was discussing with longtime CBC member, Marion Clark, some instances when relatively common birds were misidentified and reported as rarities. Marion said rather sagely “When you hear hoofbeats in the Carolinas think horse rather than zebra”.

That notion has saved me from some embarrassment on many occasions. Although I must have temporarily forgotten it when I posted a White-cheeked Pintail at Huntington Beach SP, only to issue a retraction a few minutes later when sanity returned.

However, a recent sighting at Lake

Conestee Nature Park (LCNP) in Greenville County, South Carolina, shows that we should not always exclude the possibility of a “zebra”.

On the afternoon of November 30th, a frequent birder at Conestee sent me a text to tell me that there was a Northern Harrier in the West Bay at LCNP. I maintain the LCNP checklist, and a quick consultation showed that there had been only one report of a Northern Harrier at Conestee during a prior month of November. So the bird was rare at this time of year but not unprecedented. This second sighting was rapidly inserted into a new update of the checklist in preparation.

The next day a few GCBC members met at Conestee to try to relocate two recent additions to the LCNP checklist, Marsh Wren and Vesper Sparrow. We made a mental note to be on the lookout for the Northern Harrier, although a violent storm on the evening of November 30th might have caused it to move on.

On our way to the West Bay to look for the Marsh Wren, I received a text from Anthony Martin to tell me that he was on the observation deck looking at “a strange raptor”. Aha! Anthony had found the Northern Harrier. A few moments later a large raptor flew past our group only a few yards away heading along a narrow waterway between the West Bay and the North Slough. Its white rump convinced the three of us who saw it that it was the Northern Harrier reported yesterday.

/Continued P. 6

Snail Kite at Lake Conestee Nature Park/Continued

But....we all had reservations about it. It was a strange looking harrier - the white rump was rather scruffy looking, rather than well defined; the tail looked shorter than it should be, but that could have been due to the angle from which we saw it; the tail had an obvious white band at its extremity (Sibley shows a very narrow white band at the end of the tail of a Northern Harrier which none of us had ever noticed before); and it didn't look to be flying like a Northern Harrier. In other words there was plenty to suggest that the bird was NOT a Northern Harrier, but a harrier had been reported yesterday and what other raptor over a marsh in the Upstate of South Carolina has a white rump? We stuck with Northern Harrier.



Snail Kite photographed by Anthony Q. Martin at Lake Conestee Nature Park.

When we arrived at the observation deck, Anthony Martin expressed doubts about the bird being a Northern Harrier. He said he would send me photos. I should have asked to see them right there on the deck, but I didn't. I was already convinced that what we had seen was a scruffy Northern Harrier.

My conviction was such that when Anthony sent me his photos later that afternoon I just glanced at them on my phone and said "female Northern Harrier".

Early the next morning, Anthony sent me another text to say that after he posted photos of the harrier on the Greenville County Bird Club Facebook page a birder living in Florida had commented that the photos were of a Snail Kite! I immediately viewed the photos on the larger screen of my laptop. It was embarrassing. It was obviously a Snail Kite and not even close to looking like a Northern Harrier. All the field marks we had attributed to a "strange" Northern Harrier fitted perfectly for Snail Kite.

But there had only ever been one confirmed Snail Kite in South Carolina, at Elliott's Landing Crawfish Ponds in Clarendon County in 2007. Before alerting the birding community (and risking making a fool of myself - again) I sent the photos to Chris Hill, chair of the SC Bird Records Committee. Chris immediately confirmed that it was a Snail Kite. Around the same time photos taken of the same bird on November 30th became available. I sent an email to Carolina Birds to announce only the second Snail Kite in South Carolina and submitted a Rare Bird Report.

In 2007, the Clarendon County Snail Kite stuck around the crawfish farm for more than four weeks. Unfortunately, the Conestee Snail Kite has not been seen again since December 1st, despite many birders searching for it over the next few days.

The Conestee bird had been banded, the bands being easily visible on Anthony's photos which were posted on the CBC Gallery page. Chris Hill sent details of the bands to knowledgeable people and a short time later learned that the bird had been banded just prior to fledging on July 16, 2016, in a private mitigation wetland near Fellsmere, Florida. Snail Kites started nesting in that area in 2015, and it has possibly been the most productive area in the state these past two years.

On this occasion a reported "horse" (Northern Harrier) turned out to be a "zebra" (Snail Kite).

All stories have a moral. The moral of this one is that, while we should still think horse before zebra, ***if the ID marks don't support horse, look very carefully - it could well be a zebra.***

Birder's Book Review

Steve Shultz

Britain's Birds: An identification guide to the birds of Britain and Ireland

Rob Hume, Robert Still, Andy Swash, Hugh Harrop, and David Tipling

ISBN 978-0-691-15889-1, 560 pages, Flexibound

2016, Princeton University Press, \$35.00



North American birders might be considered blessed by the number of field guides we have at our fingertips for use in identifying birds. Or cursed if trying to decide which of the myriad choices to study or take in the field. Our friends on that English-speaking island across the pond historically had fewer choices, and thus a much easier time picking a book. With the introduction of *Britain's Birds: An Identification Guide to the Birds of Britain and Ireland*, that choice just became more interesting.

Ron Hume, Robert Still, Andy Swash, Hugh Harrop, and David Tipling collaborated to create a beautifully presented guide that deserves a spot on any birder's bookshelf. Every species recorded in Britain and Ireland is included; and in addition to serving as an excellent field guide to expected species, the tome provides fascinating commentary on the distribution of North American birds as vagrants to Western Europe. The total number of records for each "unexpected visitor" is listed, allowing birders to gain a better understanding of migration patterns and potential for vagrancy.

Each regularly occurring species rates approximately five photographs carefully selected to show salient fieldmarks and range of plumage. From an artistic standpoint, the overlay of the photos on natural backgrounds makes the guide a joy to simply leaf through on a rainy day when one might rather be in the field. In all, the book features more than 3,200 photographs. Each species account includes the estimated number of birds, or breeding pairs if applicable, found throughout Britain and Ireland, which helps visiting birders understand abundance and range. The treatment of shorebirds may be especially valuable for birders in North America looking for European vagrants or hoping to simply brush up on identification skills. "Family plates" show auks, hawks, shorebirds, owls, larks and more in flight, providing an effective way to learn identification of birds not sitting serenely on the ground. Larophiles will want the book simply for the excellent treatment of gulls.

The guide, while written specifically for Britain and Ireland, also covers species encountered in Iceland, and birders visiting this increasingly popular destination can leverage one guide for all of their far-western European needs.

Fog. Twenty species of warblers. A chicken.

By Steve Shultz



Frederica and Linda Kolb

What do these seemingly incongruent things have in common? They were all headlines during the CBC Blue Ridge Parkway bonus trip held over the weekend of September 17-18. Offered as a chance to encounter roving flocks of Neotropical migrants in the beautiful highlands of northwestern North Carolina, the weekend met those expectations even while veering into uncharted territory.

Ten Club members coalesced into an eager group under low ceilings and spitting mist early on Saturday the 17th. When Sparta, our home base, has low clouds, it usually means the spine of the Blue Ridge on which the Parkway runs will be encased in fog, and such was the case upon our arrival. Nonetheless, we were able to find a few fast-moving flocks of migrants, with Tennessee and Cape May the most commonly encountered warbler. Foggy farm fields produced flocks of Wild Turkey taking advantage of the unsettled conditions in which to extend their breakfasts, and it seemed that the farther north we drove, the thicker the fog.

So we turned around and proceeded in a southerly direction.

This southerly campaign cumulated in an energizing walk up the abandoned road to Mahogany Rock and a chance encounter with what might have been the “flock of the weekend”, a hive of activity that included Golden-winged Warbler among many others. Coming just after the sighting of a Nashville Warbler in the thickets atop the mountain, the walk capped off a decent day of warbler, vireo, tanager, and thrush sightings.

On the way to lunch, we came across a strange sight: a chicken standing alongside the Parkway! Birders are used to scanning for grouse and turkey, but a chicken? A few minutes later, after regrouping at the next overlook, we found that the chicken succeeded in hitching a ride... with one of us! Now named “Frederica” and housed in a handy milk crate, our new mascot rode along for the rest of the trip, never complaining, but enduring a fair number of fried chicken jokes. Frederica now enjoys a new, free-range home in the great state of South Carolina.

/Continued P. 9

Welcome New CBC Members!

Ellen Aeschleman
Oriental, NC

Alan Biggs
Hilton Head Island, SC

Debra Croft
Columbia, SC

Dawn & Chip Davis
Louisburg, NC

Steve Dowlan
Vilas, NC

Donna Gail Gaudet
Clayton, GA

Jan Goodson
Southern Pines, NC

Henry & Elizabeth Link
Greensboro, NC

Suzanne Taylor
Pittsboro, NC

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

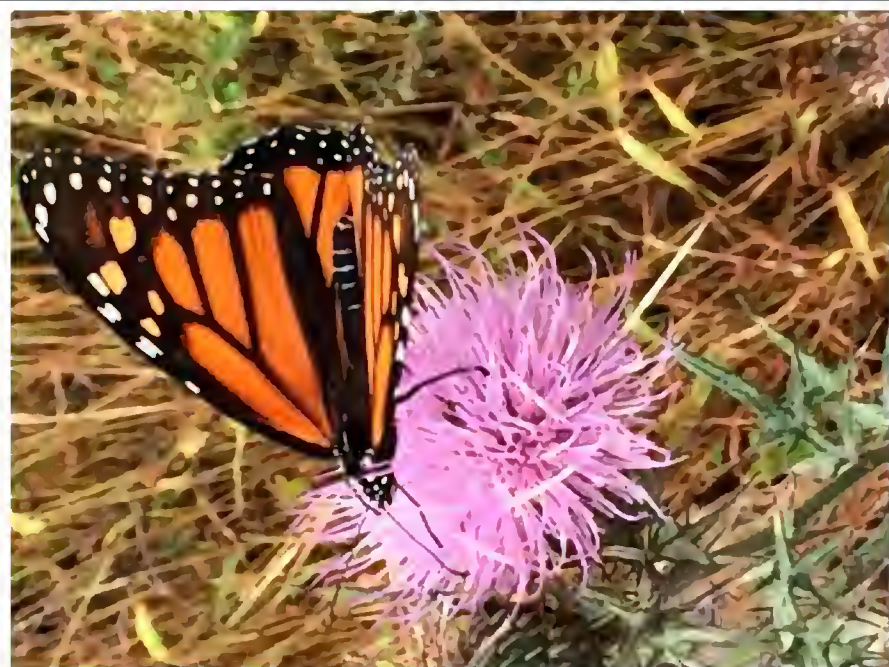
John & Elaine Hammond
Durham, NC

Fog. Twenty species of warblers. A chicken. /Continued

By Steve Shultz

And while the weather on Saturday challenged, Sunday dawned bright and clear, buoying spirits and whetting appetites for another run at the Parkway. We almost immediately ran into flocks of hungry migrants, with yellow, tan and brown warblers flying about so quickly that we had little choice but to point binoculars at a likely group of leaves and wait for a bird to stop. Tennessee and Cape May again ruled the day, with Canada, Bay-breasted, and others acting in supporting roles.

By noon on Sunday we tallied twenty species of warblers and nice looks at Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and more. The trip total came in at 71 species... plus a chicken!





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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring 2017 - Winston Salem, North Carolina

Fall 2017—Litchfield Beach, South Carolina

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pittsjam@windstream.net

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Membership dues of \$25 include \$4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 63

April 2017

Number 2

CBC Spring Meeting Winston Salem, NC

April 28-29, 2017

Karyl Gabriel

You won't want to miss the excitement of spring migration in the North Carolina Piedmont and the 2017 Carolina Bird Club meeting in Winston-Salem, NC on April 28-29. Field-trips include a variety of piedmont and pre-mountain habitats in and around Winston-Salem and Greensboro and the Blue Ridge Parkway, including many on the NC Birding Trail, as well as Pilot Mountain, which is designated as an Important Bird Area.

We will be based at the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center in Winston-Salem. The conference center has a 3-Diamond AAA rating, is NC Green Travel Certified and features free parking, business center and fitness center. The Bayberry Bistro on site specializes in American cuisine and serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and room service; guests can also have a drink at the bar. The Hawthorne Inn is conveniently located close to interesting downtown dining and cultural attractions for birders and their non-birding companions alike.

Rooms at the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center may be booked by calling (800) 972-3774 and asking for a room in the Carolina Bird Club block. Room rates are \$95 per night (excluding NC state tax of 6.75% and occupancy tax of 6%) and include a complimentary hot breakfast. Please remember that reservations made after March 4, 2017 are subject to space availability. All the rooms feature a microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker, free WiFi and hairdryer.

We will have sessions both Friday and Saturday evenings (cash bar available both nights). Saturday evening will feature a buffet dinner at the Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center followed by a program and CBC general meeting. The buffet is priced at \$28 per person. Joan Collins will be our featured speaker on Saturday evening. A passionate birder and ear-birder, Joan is a writer and speaker on ornithology topics for many organizations and programs, a New York State licensed bird guide and owner of Adirondack Avian Expeditions. She is active in conservation and climate change work with a special love for the Bicknell's Thrush and Gray Jay. On Friday evening Will Scott, with the Yadkin Riverkeeper, will join us to discuss their activities to promote and protect the Yadkin Pee Dee River Basin and clean water. The Yadkin River is the principal hydrological artery of central NC, now threatened as many of our rivers are, by industrial pollution and poor management.

Please join us for another memorable CBC meeting!

Spring Meeting Field Trip Information & Descriptions Begin on Page 3.

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), April 2017, Volume 63, Number 2. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374.

A Message to CBC Members from Irvin Pitts



I am honored for the opportunity to serve as President of the Carolina Bird Club. My association with the dedicated and hardworking Executive Committee has made my task most rewarding. Each member of the Executive Committee has gone beyond what was necessary to help manage and improve our Club. I've also benefitted personally from my experience as President for it has given me the opportunity to meet numerous birders from across the Carolinas. I have come away with a heightened admiration and respect for the many fine folks that represent our birding community.

One area of focus over the past two years has been the continued support of our Carolina young birders. With the help of member donations, the Executive Committee created a youth scholarship program and additional support to enable young birders the opportunities to expand their knowledge of birds through meaningful learning experiences, such as workshops and birding camps. These are worthy efforts, and I especially appreciate our young birders active participation in our seasonal meetings. They bring much vitality to the Carolina Bird Club and represent our future conservation leaders. My association with them has been one of my more pleasant experiences as President.

In addition, the Executive Committee has strived to be a good steward of our club's resources through long-range planning. As another priority we have worked to improve membership services by offering high quality field trips, guest speakers and workshops at our seasonal meetings, along with the continuation of our popular bonus trips. In the area of conservation, our grants program continues to support meaningful research projects in the Carolinas and we have stepped up our efforts to build relationships with local conservation leaders and organizations. Additionally, I am very proud of our website and newsletter, which provides important timely information and educational resources to our members. As another priority, the Executive Committee has made it their goal to support the scientific integrity of our Club. I've been very pleased with the high degree of professionalism exhibited by our two Bird Records Committees and with the high quality of our scientific journal publication *The Chat*.

In a broader sense, the Executive Committee has tried to foster an atmosphere of welcoming fellowship at our seasonal meetings combined with fine birding experiences. The planning and organizing of our seasonal meetings requires much work, and our Club has benefitted greatly from the volunteer efforts of members, which I greatly appreciate. If you have never attended a seasonal meeting, I invite you to do so. In my admittedly biased opinion, the Carolinas, from the mountains to the sea, provides some of the best birding anywhere in North America. Our seasonal meetings connect our members with the finest resources the Carolinas have to offer, through shared experiences for seasoned and beginning birders alike. That is the way birding should be. Again, I want to thank all of you for your current and future support, and I look forward to seeing each of you soon!

Sincerely,
Irvin Pitts

Winston-Salem Field Trip Schedule and Descriptions

Friday April 28th

Half Day Morning

<u>Trip #8</u>	Tanglewood Country Park – 7:00 AM	<u>Trip #33</u>	Tanglewood Country Park – 7:00 AM
<u>Trip #9</u>	Reynolda Gardens– 7:15 AM	<u>Trip #34</u>	Reynolda Gardens – 7:15 AM
<u>Trip #10</u>	Historic Bethabara Park – 7:00 AM	<u>Trip #35</u>	Historic Bethabara Park – 7:00 AM
<u>Trip #11</u>	Miller Park & Archie Elledge Treatment Plant 8:15 AM	<u>Trip #36</u>	Hamilton Lakes Park & Bog Garden -6:30 AM
<u>Trip #12</u>	Hamilton Lakes Park & Bog Garden-6:30 AM	<u>Trip #37</u>	Civitan Park, Salem Creek Greenway & Salem Lake – 6:45 AM
<u>Trip #13</u>	Northeast Park/Baldwin-Sockwell Road 7:00 AM	<u>Trip #38</u>	Price Park – 7:15 AM
<u>Trip #14</u>	Piedmont Environmental Center & Greenway 6:45 AM	<u>Trip #39</u>	Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail – 6:30 AM

Saturday April 29th

Half Day Morning

Friday April 28th—Half Day Afternoon

<u>Trip #18</u>	Tanglewood Country Park – 1:00 PM	<u>Trip #43</u>	Tanglewood Country Park – 1:00 PM
<u>Trip #19</u>	Reynolda Gardens – 1:00 PM	<u>Trip #44</u>	Reynolda Gardens – 1:00 PM
<u>Trip #20</u>	Historic Bethabara Park – 1:00 PM	<u>Trip #45</u>	Historic Bethabara Park – 1:00 PM
<u>Trip #21</u>	Civitan Park, Salem Creek Greenway & Salem Lake – 12:45 PM	<u>Trip #46</u>	Washington Park & Salem Creek Greenway – 1:00 PM
<u>Trip #22</u>	Piedmont Environmental Center & Greenway 12:45 PM	<u>Trip #47</u>	Price Park – 12:45 PM
<u>Trip #23</u>	Sanders Ridge Vineyard & Big Woods Restaurant – 12:45 PM	<u>Trip #48</u>	Chinqua –Penn Walking Trail-12:45PM

Saturday April 29th—Half Day Afternoon

Friday April 28th—All Day

<u>Trip #1</u>	Blue Ridge Parkway South – 6:15 AM	<u>Trip #26</u>	Blue Ridge Parkway South – 6:15 AM
<u>Trip #2</u>	Stone Mountain State Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park – 6:15 AM	<u>Trip #27</u>	Stone Mountain State Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park – 6:15 AM
<u>Trip #3</u>	Hanging Rock State Park & Surrounding Area 6:15 AM	<u>Trip #28</u>	Hanging Rock State Park and Surrounding Area 6:15 AM
<u>Trip #4</u>	Pilot Mountain State Park – 6:30 AM	<u>Trip #29</u>	Pilot Mountain State Park – 6:30 AM
<u>Trip #5</u>	NC Zoo & Uwharrie National Forest – 6:30 AM		

Saturday April 29th—All Day

Essential Planning Notes for the Winston-Salem Meeting!

Friday, April 14th is the last date you can cancel and receive a refund
of your registration fee and banquet charge.

If you have to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the **Headquarters Secretary**
so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

- **All field trips have a limit of 14 participants. Status of the field trips will be posted on the web page.**
- Plan to bring water, snacks and lunch for the all day trips since there will probably not be food available along the route. There are fast food options near the hotel so you can purchase takeout for lunch the night before.
- Water and snacks are a good idea for the half-day field trips. The schedule is tight so you may want to have a cooler with lunch in your room as an alternative to the fast food available nearby. All rooms have refrigerators.
- All trips will leave from the hotel at the times indicated on the schedule. If you prefer to meet the group at the site, be sure to inform the leader and make a notation on the field trip attendee list so the leader will not be looking for you at the hotel.

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions—Half Day

Trips 8, 18, 33, 43: Tanglewood Country Park (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) This beautiful park of over 1000 acres along the Yadkin River features varied habitats and year-round bird viewing opportunities. We will likely be birding from the car as well as hiking on trails and service roads to cover native grass meadow, oak forest, mixed hardwoods/pine forest, early successional, mesic forest habitat and the wetlands viewing platform. We will bird through the Manor House, golf course, cemetery, horse track, stables and picnic areas and a portion of the Yadkin River Trail, developed in partnership between the Forsyth Audubon Society. The diversity of habitat supports a wide variety of birds. Watch for Red-headed (although these are becoming harder to see) and Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Cliff Swallows, and nesting Baltimore Orioles. Expect Indigo Buntings, Green Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak, flycatchers and several species of warblers, including nesting Prothonotary Warblers. Trails are well maintained and fairly easy walking.

There is a \$2 per car entrance fee. Restrooms are available. **Approximate Travel Time: 15 min.**

Trips 9, 19, 34, 44: Reynolda Gardens (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) The grounds and trails around the 129-acre former R. J. Reynolds estate are in the heart of Winston-Salem adjacent to and owned by Wake Forest University. This is known by the locals to be one of the best birding destinations in town. Every warbler, thrush and vireo on the county list has been observed here. The sun reaches the abundant tall trees early, which become alive with warblers, vireos, orioles, tanagers and grosbeaks. The woodland walking trails through oak forest and mixed hardwoods and pine offer possibilities to see cuckoos, woodpeckers, flycatchers and thrushes, while the marsh and native grass meadows can produce Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Cedar Waxwings, Red-winged Blackbirds warblers and raptors. If you're not a hard-core birder or just want to take a break, this field trip provides some alternatives for an enjoyable outing. The grounds include formal gardens, a plant shop and the Reynolda House Museum of Art. The adjacent Reynolda Village has several shops and restaurants. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking, although sections may be hilly.

Approximate Travel Time: 10 min.

If you want to see the birds, enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants and check out the gardens, plant shop and museum, sign up for a morning trip and stay all day. Just let the leader know and drive separately or carpool with someone whose schedule coincides with yours. There is a \$14 fee for the Reynolda House Museum of Art and for house tours. Restrooms are available.

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 10, 20, 35, 45: Historic Bethabara Park (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) Birds flock to this unique setting. A National Landmark, this site is where the first group of Moravians settled in 1753. We can stroll through the original village with its palisade fence and numerous archeological excavations, but our primary focus will be the 20-mile system of nature trails that traverse a 183-acre wildlife preserve that includes a wetlands area with a boardwalk. Spring brings vireos, Blue Grosbeaks, a variety of warblers and both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. Nesting species include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Brown Thrashers and Wood Thrush. We should also be on the look-out for Barred Owl, woodpeckers, thrushes, warblers, Tree Swallows, Wood Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, herons and flycatchers. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking. **Approximate Travel Time: 10 min.**

For those interested, the Visitor Center offers a video about the settlement history, and the museum features a restored and furnished 1788 church, archaeological ruins, exhibits and tours with costumed guides, a reconstructed village, a French and Indian War fort and colonial and medical gardens and gift shop featuring hand-crafted Moravian items. The Visitor Center opens at 10:30 a.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, so sign up for the afternoon trip if this is your primary interest. Restrooms are not available Saturday morning when the Visitor Center is closed.

Trip 11: Miller Park & Archie Elledge Treatment Plant (Half Day)

(Miller Park is on NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spots) We will combine two venues for a nice variety of birds. The entire site of Archie Elledge Sewage Treatment Plant can be productive, including the fields and brush areas that attract Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Song and Field Sparrows. A short drive will take us to a very different habitat at Miller Park, which is right in town and popular with birders and non-birders alike. The activity at the playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters and community center doesn't seem to bother the birds in the adjacent woods. The compact network of paved trails provides close views of birds in a mix of hardwoods, stands of pine, wildflowers and a living stream. Thrushes hop across the paths, and flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and orioles flit about the trees. There is a good chance of seeing nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Barred Owls, Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks. Restrooms are available at Miller Park, but not at the treatment plant. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking.

Approximate Travel Time: 10 min.

Trips 12, 36: Hamilton Lakes Park & Bog Garden (Half Day)

(Bog Garden is on NC Birding Trail – Central Piedmont Group, ebird hot spots) Hamilton Lakes Park is a 60-acre wooded park located in a Greensboro residential neighborhood and is one of the best places in Guilford county to see neotropical migrants in the spring. Nearly every warbler species in eastern North America has been seen here, along with woodpeckers, migrating thrushes and breeding raptors.

There are no public facilities in this privately owned park. Birders must be especially cautious about being good guests because parking is limited and it is heavily used by neighborhood residents.

The Bog Garden is a small wetland embedded in a residential section of Greensboro and features floodplain forest, lake and small wetland habitat traversed by a boardwalk. Mallard and Wood Duck are year-round residents. Spring migration attracts thrushes, flycatchers and wood warblers. Brown-headed Nuthatch and Eastern Screech Owl are known to nest here. If time permits, we may check out the Bicentennial Garden, a formal garden with paved and mulched walkways through shrubs, mature pines and open garden areas, just 100 yards north of the Bog Garden. Rest rooms will be available at gas stations and convenience stores near the sites.

Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking. **Approximate Travel Time: 30 min.**

Trip 13 Northeast Park/Baldwin-Sockwell Road (Half Day)

Located near Gibsonville, this 374-acre park offers a wide variety of outdoor experiences, including an aquatic center, hiking, biking and equestrian trails, athletic fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds and over 10 miles of trails. We will walk the Buffalo Creek Trail and on the Reedy Fork trail through bottomland forest and near the creek. Participants should expect to walk quite a lot. Sections of the trails are hilly; participants should wear sturdy walking shoes and bring drinking water. Restrooms in the park. **Approximate Travel Time: 50 min.**

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions—Half Day

Trips 14, 22: Piedmont Environmental Center and Greenway (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Central Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) This 376-acre site features over 11 miles of trails that provide a variety of options for birders, including oak forest and mixed hardwoods / pine, early successional, small wetland and lake habitats. Species of interest include migrating warblers and other passerines, ducks, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Great Horned Owl and nesting Red-Headed Woodpecker. The Center is the southern terminus of the Guilford Country Bicentennial Greenway that provides additional birding opportunities. Restrooms are available at the main building. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking, although there may be sections that are hilly. **Approximate Travel Time: 30 min.**

Trips 21, 37: Civitan Park, Salem Creek Greenway & Salem Lake (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) Civitan Park and the Salem Creek Greenway comprise a restoration area with a greenway that runs parallel to and between a five-acre wetland and Salem Creek. This small city park is adjacent to Winston-Salem State University and is home to such species as Green Heron, Yellow Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird and Orchard Oriole, and supports a variety of spring migrants. It is the only known nesting site in the county for Willow Flycatchers and Warbling Vireos. This park also has a nice variety of wildflowers. If time permits, we will go by Salem Lake, a 365-acre reservoir that is Forsyth County's largest body of water, to look for lingering waterfowl. An unpaved trail encircles the entire lake. A few minutes here could net a few more songbird species since the shore is wooded and attracts migrants. Restrooms at Salem Lake marina. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking. **Approximate Travel Time: 10 min.**

Trip 23: Sanders Ridge Vineyard & Big Woods Restaurant (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) This trip is ideal for birders and non-birders alike. This 150-acre site set in the Yadkin County countryside has been in the same family for five generations. There are many good birding areas, including the open spaces in and around the 15-acre vineyard, as well as two woodland, marsh, lake and stream trails. We can expect to find a variety of species, including migrating passerines, woodpeckers, flycatchers, herons and Wood Duck. The grounds are known for the butterflies and wildflowers as well as birds. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking.

Approximate Travel Time: 30 min.

Non-birders may enjoy taking a winery tour refining their palates by participating in a wine-tasting session.

The Big Woods Restaurant serves dinner in a beautiful setting beginning at 5:30 PM, so you may want to consider having your Friday dinner here (reservations are required).

Restrooms are available when the restaurant opens around midday.

Trips 38, 47: Price Park (Half Day)

(ebird hot spot) This 1.5 mile trail was created in 1997 and covers open pasture, creek, pond and hardwood forest habitats. With over 150 species identified, the area attracts migrating and breeding woodland songbirds, grassland birds, waterfowl such as herons and kingfishers and Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. The trail also features wildflowers. Restrooms in nearby gas stations and convenience stores. Trails are well-maintained and fairly easy walking. **Approximate Travel Time: 30 min.**

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions—Half Day

Trips 39, 48: Chingua-Penn Walking Trail (Half Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Rockingham County Group, ebird hot spot) This 1.5 mile trail was created in 1997 and covers open pasture, creek, pond and hardwood forest habitats. With over 150 species identified, the area attracts migrating and breeding woodland songbirds, grassland birds, waterfowl such as herons and kingfishers and Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. The trail also features wildflowers.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 min.

Trip 46: Washington Park & Salem Creek Greenway (Half Day)

(Greenway is on the NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, both are ebird hot spots) Washington Park is the largest neighborhood park in Winston-Salem and encompasses athletic fields, a dog park, a section of Salem Creek Greenway and trails through vast natural areas. This park provides an excellent place to inventory the migration. Driving or walking around the “upper park” is a good spot for Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blue-winged and Hooded Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Blue-headed Vireos, all five thrushes – just about anything can show up here. The trail along the creek can be good for Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and maybe Acadian and Willow Flycatchers. Be prepared to walk on sidewalks and trails that are somewhat hilly, but not too strenuous. There is a Port-A-John at Washington Park.

Approximate Travel Time: 15 min.

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions—All Day

Trips 1, 26: Blue Ridge Parkway South (All Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northern Blue Ridge Parkway Group, ebird hot spot) Our route is along NC Hwy 21 up the escarpment through Roaring Gap to the Blue Ridge Parkway. A stop at Little Glade Mill Pond at milepost 230 should yield tanagers, orioles and warblers in the hardwoods on either side of the parkway. The next stop is Mahogany Rock where hummingbirds, Indigo Bunting, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat are sometimes found. Grassy fields at the Bluffs Lodge sometimes harbor Grasshopper Sparrows and Horned Larks. If time permits, we will stop at Basin Creek at the south side of Doughton Park and look for Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, Waterthrushes, redstarts, thrushes and Acadian Flycatchers. The fields along Longbottom Road are good for hawks, Wild Turkey, Eastern Kingbird and Tree Swallow. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. There are restrooms at Doughton Park and limited toilet facilities elsewhere. **Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour.**

Trips 2, 27: Stone Mountain State Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park (All Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northern Blue Ridge Parkway Group, ebird hot spot) This trip takes us to several different areas, giving us opportunities for a long list of species. First we'll drive through Stone Mountain State Park, with brief stops for warblers. Louisiana Waterthrush and Swainson's Warbler are possibilities here. Next we'll pass through Wilkes County fields where we will watch for Wild Turkey and Tree Swallows. From there, our route will take us along Long Bottom Road where we will stop to bird Basin Creek for Acadian Flycatchers and several species of warblers, including Northern Parula, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-throated, Black and White, Worm-eating and American Redstart. After ascending the escarpment on Hwy 18, we'll take the Parkway north to the upper end of Doughton Park, stopping at overlooks and Mahogany Rock, for Common Ravens, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Chestnut-sided Warblers and possibly Red-breasted Nuthatches. On our return to Winston-Salem along Hwy 21 through Roaring Gap, we'll make a brief stop to check the lakes for Wood Ducks and late migrant waterfowl. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. Restrooms are available at Doughton Park and at convenience stores and gas stations along the route. **Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour.**

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions—All Day

Trips 3, 28: Hanging Rock State Park & Surrounding Area (All Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) Hanging Rock State Park offers sheer cliffs and peaks of bare rock, quiet forests and cascading waterfalls and views of the piedmont plateau that stretch for miles. Peregrine Falcon and Common Raven can be seen performing aerial acrobatics during courtship. Listen for Black-throated Green Warblers, Worm-eating Warblers and Hooded Warblers along any number of the trails including the short trails to the five waterfalls in the park. The mountain laurel and rhododendron make this area especially beautiful in the spring. Although there are several strenuous trails in the park, we will be on trails that are moderate to easy. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. Restrooms are available in the park. **Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour.**

Trips 4, 29: Pilot Mountain State Park (All Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Northwest Piedmont Group, ebird hot spot) Pilot Mountain rises more than 1400 feet above the rolling countryside of the upper Piedmont as you approach the park. The Park offers hiking trails through a variety of habitats. The mountain section is forested in northern piedmont mixed hardwoods/pine, culminating in a quartzite monadnock at the summit while one of the most scenic stretches of the Yadkin River flows through the lower elevations. A 6.5-mile woodland corridor links the two sections. A wide variety of species associated with water may be seen in the river section, including Bald Eagle, Snowy Egret, Green Heron and migrating raptors. We can expect to see a wide variety of migrating passerines (including warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks and thrushes), along with woodpeckers and sparrows and other grassland species. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. Restrooms are available in the park. Participants should expect to walk quite a bit; sections of the trails may be hilly. **Approximate Travel Time: 30 min.**

Trip 5: North Carolina Zoological Park (All Day)

(NC Birding Trail – Uwharrie Group, ebird hot spot) In addition to the exotic birds of the R.J. Reynolds Forest Aviary, the open spaces of the 1500-acre NC Zoo offer both understory and tree canopy of oak forest and mixed hardwood / pine, small wetlands and lake habitats where we can find a wide variety of migrating passerines, native ducks and wading birds. Purgatory Mountain Trail begins at the north end of the North America Region parking lot and extends a mile to the top of scenic Purgatory Mountain. According to the most popular Randolph County legend, Purgatory Mountain gained its name during U.S. Prohibition era when there were so many whiskey stills built on the mountain that their fires lit up at night like "purgatory." Purgatory Mountain is the highest point in the Zoo and part of the Uwharrie Mountain range, thought by geologists to be the oldest in North America. Here the biologically significant forests change from an oak hickory to a high-elevation chestnut forest at the top of the mountain. There is a \$13 per person entry fee to enter the Zoo (to be paid at the Zoo). We will enjoy a brief tour of the Valerie H. Schindler Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, which provides free veterinary care to sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife. After our tour, we will walk through the Zoo grounds as birders.

This field trip also provides some alternatives to birding. After lunch you may want to check out the Zoo exhibits and shops, just let the leader know and drive separately or carpool with someone whose schedule coincides with yours.

In the afternoon, for those interested and if we have time, we will continue to Uwharrie National Forest – Birkhead Wilderness Area or Densons Creek Nature Trail. Both offer walks through a mixed hardwoods and pine forest, with successional grassland (Birkhead), floodplain forest and creek habitat (Densons Creek) as well. Trails are fairly easy to walk. Participants should expect to walk quite a bit. Sections of the trail may be hilly. Restrooms are available in both locations. **Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour, 15 min.**

Welcome New Members!

Jean Aldrich
Mt. Airy, NC

Tom Austin
Summerville, SC

Cindy & Snick Barbee
Florence, SC

Jeffrey Blalock
South Boston, VA

Chris & Jane Bolling
Charlotte, NC

Gail Boyarsky
Chapel Hill, NC

Jack Carroll
Wilmington, NC

Connie Coralli
Atlanta, GA

Mandy & Philip Cumming
Greenville, NC

Raymond, Julie & Leo Danner
Wilmington, NC

Clarke French
Chapel Hill, NC

Susan Hoffman
Wilmington, NC

Kathy Jones
Fuquay Varina, NC

Keith & Sharon Kennedy
Raleigh, NC

Linda Lancaster
Plymouth, MA

Jane Maxwell
Vass, NC

Marla McGee
Chapel Hill, NC

Guy McGrane
Deep Gap, NC

Meredith Miles
Boulder, CO

Robert Miller
Columbia, SC

Rebecca Novae
Huntersville, NC

Krystyna Ochota
Leland, NC

Judy & Alan Palmer
High Point, NC

David Ranney
Durham, NC

Janet & Deke Rivers
York, SC

Stephanie Seal
Lexington, SC

Gary & Kathy Shepherd
Bluffton, SC

Duane & Trish Stewart
Durham, NC

Paul Sykes
Charleston, SC

Becka Tait
Charlotte, NC

Cherry Underwood
Bluffton, SC

Lori White
Raleigh, NC

Linda & Ron Zietlow
Flat Rock, NC

2017 Annual Spring Business Meeting

A short business meeting will be held at the CBC Spring Seasonal Meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the weekend of April 28-29, 2017.

Two items of business that require a membership vote for approval will be discussed. First, it's that time of year to elect our incoming officers to serve on the CBC Executive Committee. The CBC Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of nominees for consideration:

- ♦ **President - Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC (first one-year term)**
- ♦ **Eastern NC Vice President - Sherry Lane, Wilmington, NC
(previously appointed and now eligible for a three-year term)**
- ♦ **Treasurer - Paul Dayer, Durham, NC (first one-year term)**
- ♦ **Secretary - Jeri Smart, Rolesville, NC (first one-year term)**
- ♦ **Western NC Member at Large - Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC (first two-year term)**
- ♦
- ♦ **Eastern NC Member at Large - Lester Coble, Goldsboro, NC (first two-year term)**
- ♦ **Eastern NC Member at Large - Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC (first two-year term)**
- ♦ **SC Member at Large - Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC (second two-year term)**

As a second item of business, a membership vote will be taken on a proposed dues increase. In 2016, the CBC Executive Committee voted to recommend an annual dues increase of \$5 to individual and family memberships. Enactment of this increase requires a membership vote. A notice of proposed increase was first advertised in the December 2016 CBC Newsletter and members are encouraged to read the article for more detailed information. This increase will help the Club maintain its current high level of programs and services offered to members.

The recommended dues schedule to be approved:

Individual or nonprofit: \$30

Family: \$35

Student: \$15

Patron: \$50

Business: \$30

Associate Life Membership: \$100

Life Membership: \$500

• Registration Begins March 18 @ 2 pm •
• Register Online for Best Availability of Field Trips •
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Spring 2017 Winston-Salem, NC Registration Form

Name(s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Day Phone (____) ____-____ Evening Phone (____) ____-____
 Email _____

Meeting Registration (Member) x \$30 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$35 = \$ _____

Buffet Dinner x \$28 = \$ _____

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option,
 check here: ☐ # persons _____

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1 st / 2 nd Choice	P.M. 1 st / 2 nd Choice	All-day 1 st / 2 nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/
To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days			

Meeting registration at the door costs \$40.

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send it to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled. Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until one day after online registration opens.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

- Cancellations for the meeting will be refunded if received by Friday, April 14, 2017.
- If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall 2017—Litchfield Beach, South Carolina

CBC Board Members

President, Irvin Pitts, Lexington, SC
pittsjam@windstream.net

Vice-Presidents

Teri Bergin, Mt. Pleasant, SC
Sherry Lane, Wilmington, NC
Steve Tracy, Gastonia, NC

Secretary

Doris Ratchford, Todd, NC

Treasurer

Samir Gabriel, Huntersville, NC

NC Members-at-Large

Karyl Gabriel, Huntersville
Mickey Shortt, Linville
Jeri Smart, Rolesville
Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt

SC Members-at-Large

Lewis Burke, Columbia
Steve McInnis, Columbia

Immediate Past President - Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC

Editor of The Chat- Don Seriff, Charlotte, NC

Website Editor- Kent Fiala, Hillsborough, NC

Headquarters Secretary- Carol Bowman, Pinehurst, NC,
hq@carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter Editor- Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
December, February, April, June, August, and October.

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The ***CBC Newsletter*** is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are:** Individual & non-profit, \$25; Family, \$30; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues of \$25 include \$4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Submit application for membership, change of address, and payment for checklists to: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 63

June 2017

Number 3

CBC's New President and Executive Committee



Christine Stoughton-Root
President

I really enjoyed serving as the Carolina Bird Club Eastern North Carolina Member-at-Large, meeting and working with some incredible people. I wish to thank all past presidents, board members, volunteers and members that have built the foundation of the club. That foundation has grown for 80 years, and now I am honored to serve and build on that history.

I was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. In 1997, my husband and I retired after careers in State Government. We sold all our possessions and boarded a Passport 40 sailboat named "Twelfth Night." We sailed 60,000 miles through the Atlantic and Pacific, stopping at every conceivable island and continent that was safe and welcoming. This was when my birding really became, well, as my husband might say, "an issue."

We came back to land in December 2010. Our home is on the inner banks of the Pamlico Sound. On my return to birding in the USA, I was surprised that I had to become reacquainted with the birds I had known as a child. I met local expert Liz Lathrop of the Pamlico Birders, who became a mentor and dear friend. I joined the Lower Neuse Bird Club, which provided a source of extremely knowledgeable local birders. Then I attended a seasonal meeting of the Carolina Bird Club, and was hooked.

My vision for the CBC is to continue to pursue the goals of support for conservation and education; maintain the high quality of Carolina bird records; and enable future generations to enjoy the observation and study of birds.

I believe in direct communication, and am accessible for any input a member may wish to share. Please feel free to contact me at cssrbdr@gmail.com. And as Liz Lathrop would say, "Don't forget to look up."

Have a great summer,
Christine

President - Christine Stoughton-Root, Merritt, NC (first one-year term)

**Eastern NC Vice President - Sherry Lane, Wilmington, NC
(previously appointed and now eligible for a three-year term)**

Treasurer - Paul Dayer, Durham, NC (first one-year term)

Secretary - Jeri Smart, Rolesville, NC (first one-year term)

Western NC Member at Large - Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC (first two-year term)

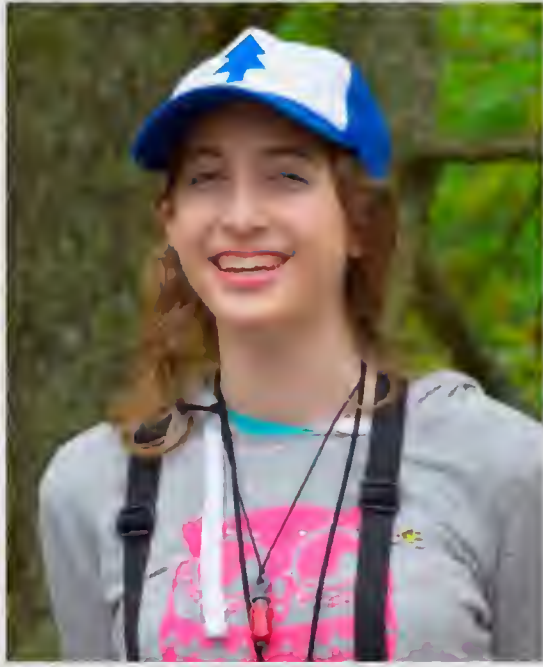
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Eastern NC Member at Large - Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC (first two-year term)

SC Member at Large - Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC (second two-year term)

CBC's Outstanding Young Birders

Carolina Young Birders Club Scholarship Recipients



Juliana Boucino

from Mooresville, NC
was awarded the 2017
Young Birder Scholarship.

Juliana, age 14, will be
attending Camp Avocet in
Delaware

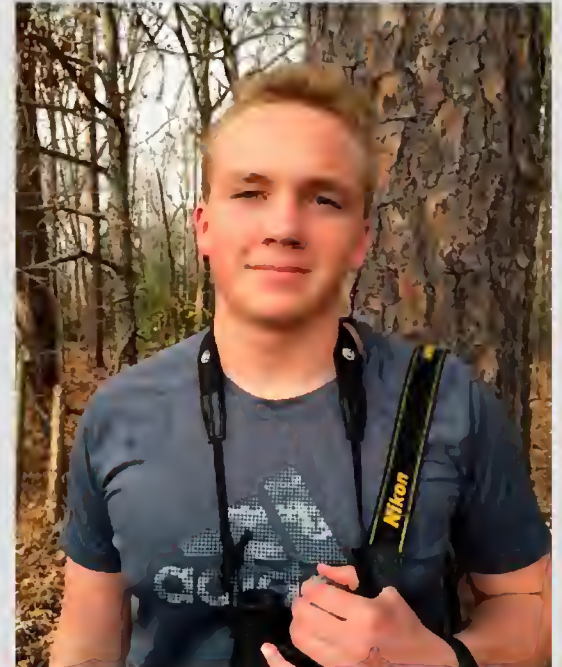
Camp Avocet is based at
the University of

Delaware's stunning
Virden Retreat Center in
historic Lewes, Delaware,
only minutes away from
two major National Wildlife
Refuges and a short ride to
six, ecologically-based
birding regions.



**We are a club for any
young person aged 8-
19 who has a interest
in birds and lives in the
Carolinas.**

**It's free to join-
All that we ask is to
stay in contact with us
and participate!**



Bailey Eichhorn

from Lexington, SC
was the 2016 CBC Young
Birder Scholarship recipient
and also attended
Camp Avocet.

Bailey, age, 13, took on the
American Birding Associa-
tion (ABA) Challenge for
young birders and won ABA
Young Birder of the Year.

For more information

[http://
youngbird-
ers.aba.org/2017/02/2017-
aba-yby.html](http://youngbirders.aba.org/2017/02/2017-aba-yby.html)

For Young Birders Scholarship Applications Visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

**If you are a young birder interested in joining the club or know a young birder in the Carolinas,
please e-mail**

mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org

**Also, if parents or relatives are interested in helping with the club they can become
adult facilitators aiding with the logistics of the club.**

CBC Winter Field Trip to the CBBT and Nags Head with Much Better Weather

By Steve Shultz

The Carolina Bird Club's bonus field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT) and the Nags Head area ran the weekend of December 17th. Although the weather was forecast to be quite a bit less than optimal, this was one of those times when actual conditions were much better than anticipated. Temperatures ranged from a low of 42 leaving the hotel for the CBBT Saturday morning to a high of 81 on the drive back toward Raleigh. While precipitation was feared to be a big part of the weekend, sunshine was more the rule, and other than a brief shower that occurred while participants were thinking of sugarplums and mistletoe in the wee hours of Sunday morning, not a drop of rain fell.

And the birds! I don't think I've ever seen as many birds along the Banks as this winter.

We started off on the CBBT, visiting islands one through four. All three North American species of scoter showed well, joined by the always impressive Long-tailed Duck. Highlights on the bridge-tunnel were a stunning pair of Harlequin

Ducks and a close-by Red-necked Grebe. While most of the harlies spotted on the CBBT are female-plumaged, the crisp male accompanied by a female was quite the treat! Purple Sandpipers lurked among the rocks while Great Cormorants sunned on concrete blocks. Mammals tried to take some of the spotlight away from birds as well, with Inshore Bottle-nosed Dolphins nearby, Harbor Seals bobbing in the water, and most surprisingly, a pair of River Otters miles "out to sea". I knew they were quite happy in estuarine habits, but seeing a pair swimming in the salty Atlantic miles from shore was a complete surprise. The aircraft carrier *George Washington* passed through the islands 1-2 channel as we arrived, always an impressive sight.

After lunch we found our way through Mackay Island NWR toward the Currituck Ferry, spotting American Bittern in the roadside ditch, Snow Geese and Tundra Swans in the sound, and ducks flying by in neat chevrons. Again non-birdlife tried to steal the show as we found a gorgeous Coastal Plains Milk Snake on the 0.3 mile loop trail at the south end of the "big causeway" in Mackay. The snake allowed for brief handling and an impromptu photo session.



Birding on Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Island #3

/Continued P. 4

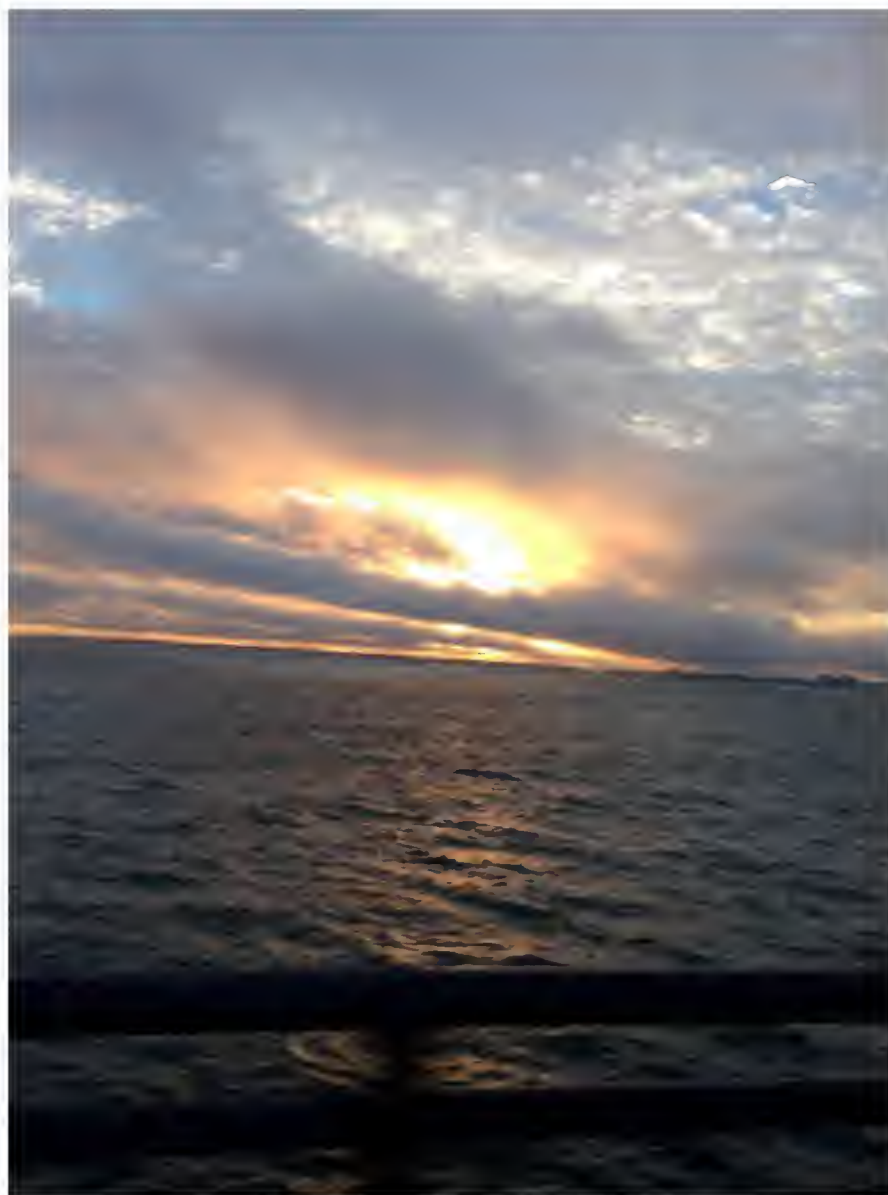
CBC Winter Field Trip to the CBBT and Nags Head /continued

A golden sunset across Currituck Sound accompanied our boarding of the ferry, and the end to a beautiful day (although the silver moon rising from the Atlantic a few hours later tried to steal the show).

Sunday started at Jeanette's Pier where once again three Common Eider put on a show. Interestingly these were not the same eiders as the prior weekend (2 females and 1 immature male versus 2 immature males and a female earlier). The eiders fed on small, white silver dollar-sized crabs, and paid zero attention to the surfers paddling out with a few yards of their activity.



Knotts Island Sunset



Cold front blows across Chesapeake Bay

The eiders were as close as ten yards to shore. The pier also hosted the continuing Black Scoters, with adult male, immature male, and female feeding directly below us and posing nicely for photos.

Also at the pier were a Parasitic Jaeger and an estimated 1,500 Northern Gannets showing pretty much every plumage imaginable from all black young birds through birds with black wings and white head and tail, to adults, with everything in between.

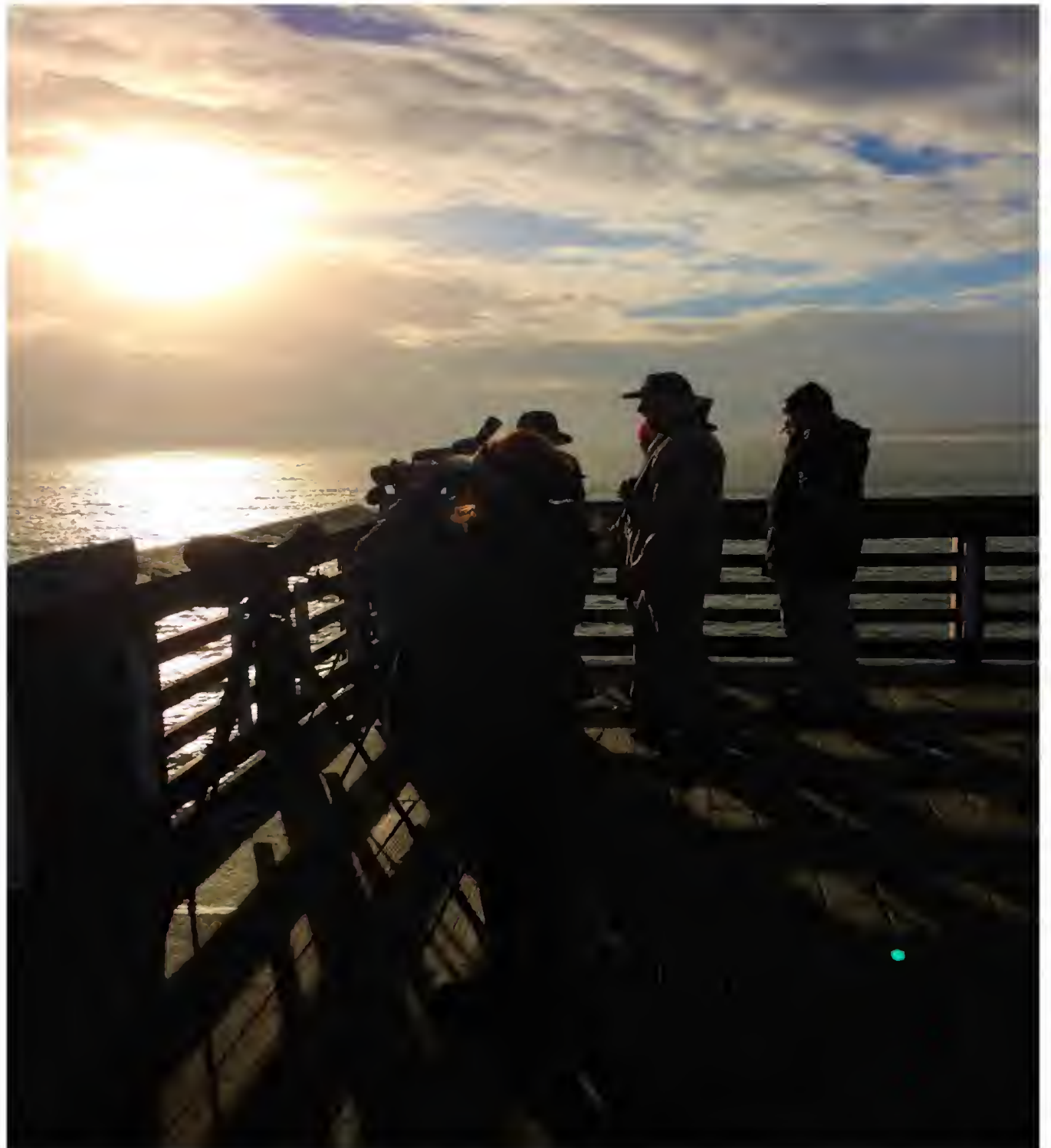
Pea Island was absolutely packed with waterfowl, the most birds I think I've ever seen. Rafts of Redhead must have numbered in the tens of thousands. Highlights included a Long-tailed Duck in New Field Pond. But again, non-birds stole the show. Since we spent quite a bit of time ocean watching in the morning, I did not plan to do any at Pea Island, but while some of the folks were cycling through the restroom, I bopped across the street to look at the ocean. While scanning behind the boiler, a Humpback Whale performed a full breach... and then two more! Most of the trip participants got over to see the whale perform repeated lunge feeds where it would come straight up out of the

ocean with gaping jaws (and fish flying out of the way) to crash down with pleated throat pouch full of water and food. From time to time a long-white pectoral fin would wave back and forth, almost as if the whale were acknowledging the big smiles watching from shore. As one of the folks on the trip said, it was like that Pacific Life commercial!

After a stop at Bodie Island, and CSI on Roanoke Island to twitch the Lark Sparrow (sitting nicely in the scope for all to see) we ended the trip at Alligator River with Bald Eagle soaring overhead in the 80 degree sunshine (!) and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs foraging side by side at River Road.

So for a weekend forecast to be windy, wet, and grey, we ended up with just at 101 species, incredible looks at scores of highlights, impressive mammal sightings, a reptile and amphib list that exceeded three, and great weather. Not a bad way to spend a pre-Christmas weekend!

*Right -Morning at Jeanette's Pier
in Nags Head*



In the August Issue -

Ron Clark's Fully Booked 'Big Bend National Park Bonus Trip' in central and southwest Texas. Ron reports on species of western birds including a few only seen in the area. The birders top priority species are the Golden-cheeked Warbler, Colima Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo. "May," says Ron, "is a great month for birding in Central Texas."

CBC Member **Steve Compton** headed to South Florida in May, traveling there for seven days with a fellow birder and will report back on his trip in time for the August issue.

Share your sightings, adventures, outings, trips and photographs with other CBC members through the newsletter.

Submissions can be sent to: newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

Pickens County Mountain Birding

By Steve Compton

For an excellent Spring birding spot, try the bridge at the Eastatoe Creek in Pickens County.
I visited there April 21, arriving at pre-dawn.



The Bridge at Dawn

The valley cut by this creek lies south west of Sassafras Mountain, north of Highway 11, reached by Cleo Chapman Highway from US 178. Look for the colorful "Bob's Place" for the obscure turn left from 178.

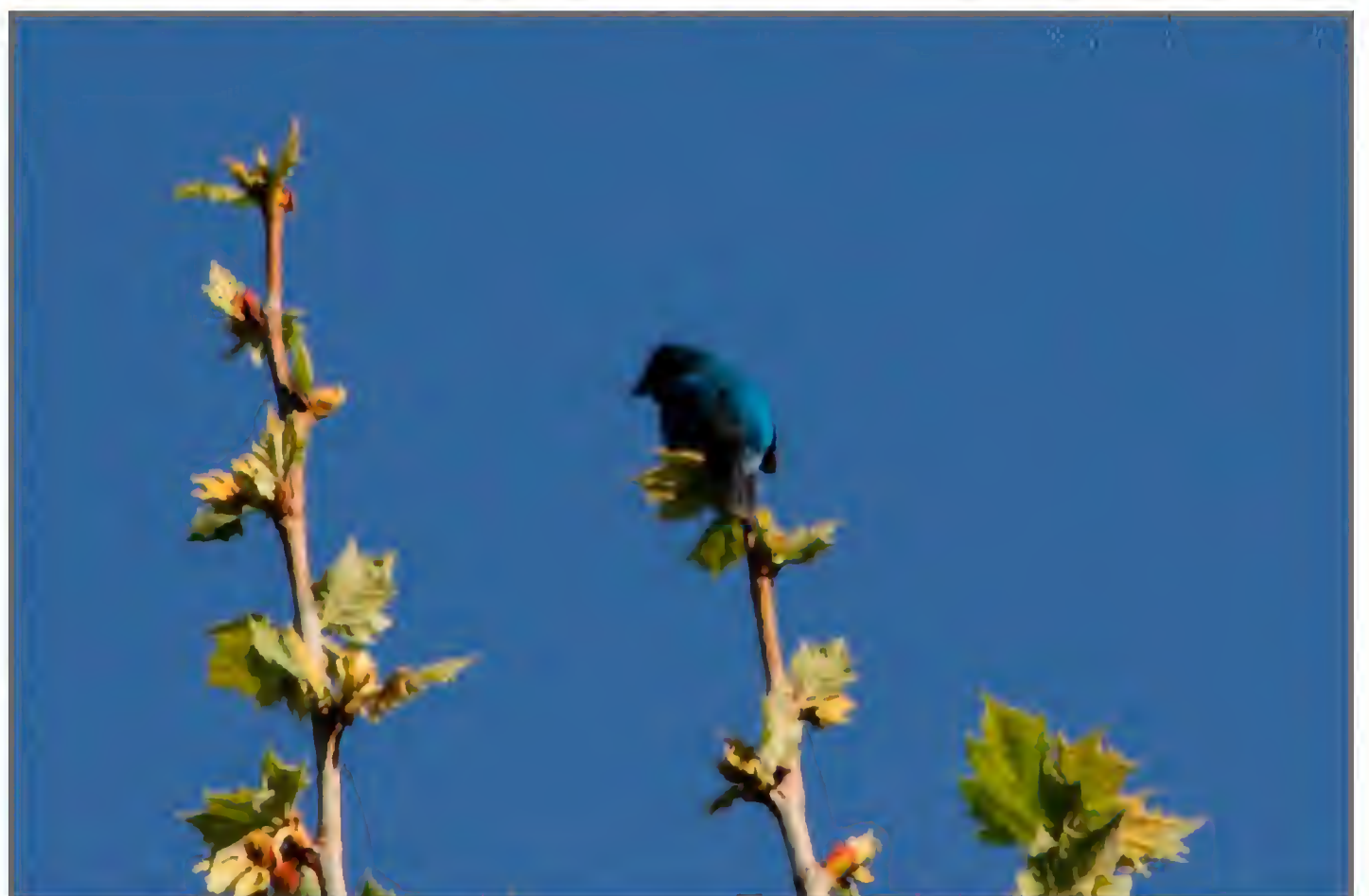
The creek runs along the road through rugged mountain terrain, where I heard Whip-poor-will, Wood Thrush, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

After a few miles the road crosses Eastatoe Creek in a pocket farm valley.

The bridge makes a convenient vantage spot for observing a variety of migrants and breeding birds. Migrating birds use the creek for navigation and are attracted to the dense tangle brush and trees along the stream.

This morning did not produce many migrants, but a good variety of breeding birds were in full song, led by a persistent Indigo Bunting.

/Continued P. 7



Indigo Bunting

Pickens County Mountain Birding/Continued

You can combine a visit to this site with a trip to the summit of Sassafras Mountain further up 178, or cross Highway 11, taking Eastatoee Creek Road to E. Preston McDaniel Road to the Nine Times Preserve.



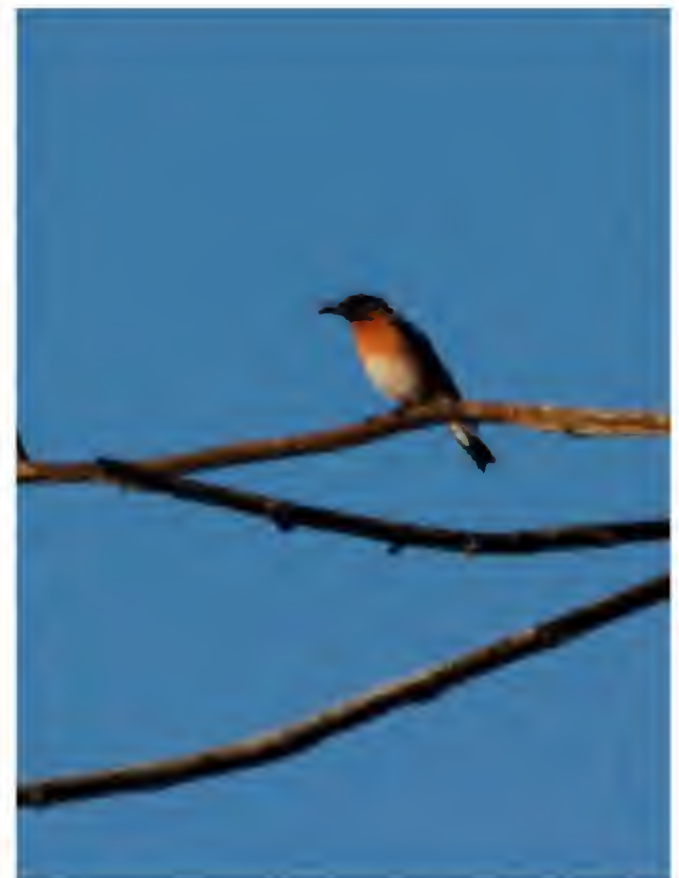
Farm Shed Near the Bridge



Chipping Sparrow

Chipping Sparrows, a migrant Palm Warbler, and Blue Grosbeaks were active in the fields.

A Broad-winged Hawk sliced through the valley on a direct line, while Gnatcatchers, a White-eyed Vireo, a Catbird, and Common Yellowthroats stuck to the brushy creek bank.



Eastern Bluebird

Credit goes to Nathan Dias for drawing attention to this interesting spot.
It is a designated eBird hotspot. <http://www.visitpickenscounty.com/nature-outdoors/>

American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas

Reviewed by Steve Shultz

American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas

Nate Swick ISBN 978-1-935622-63-5, 331 pages, Flexibound

2016, Scott & Nix, Inc., \$24.95

As you walk by your bookshelf, likely sagging from the weight of collected field guides, you may ask: “Do I really need another book? After all, I have the Peterson Guide, the Sibley Guide, and an old copy of Potter and Company’s *Birds of the Carolinas*... what more do I need?” I will try and convince you that making a space for Swick’s recently released effort will be money well spent.

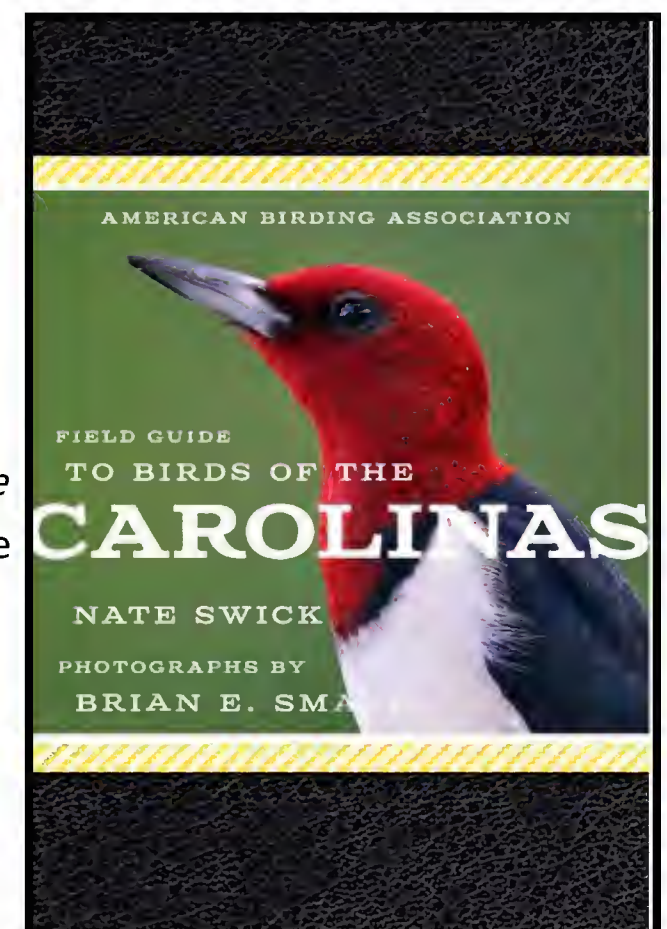
The *American Birding Association Field Guide to Birds of the Carolinas* (hereafter referred to as “the book” for brevity) finds a niche and fills it nicely. 290 species regularly encountered in the Carolinas form the tome’s backbone. The goal is to provide quick, correct identification of species encountered in the Carolinas while providing essential distribution and abundance information. Birds rarely seen, or not likely to occur in the Carolinas, are not treated, making this a very handy reference for beginning birders, visitors to the states, or someone wanting to know what that cute little black, white, and grey bird is at the feeder. Since Carolina Chickadee is right there on page 201, there’s no mistaking the bird for a Black-capped Chickadee (though, for that one person who has a feeder at 5,000 feet in the Balsam Mountains of NC, Black-capped is covered in the text). And this is one of the book’s strengths. By not treating all of the vagrants, occasionals, and rarities (though all are listed in the appendix), the book focuses on which birds are likely to be seen, and thus improves the usability of the guide for much of the target audience.

This approach necessarily requires some level of culling, so while Buff-breasted Sandpiper is included in the shorebird section (and is arguably the least common sandpiper covered) the equally abundant, in terms of actual number of birds, Red-necked Grebe is omitted. But in looking back over a typical birding year, I realize that I usually “get” a Buffie, and usually miss Red-necked Grebe, so the decision on what to include seems spot on.

And getting to the correct identification is much of the puzzle. Once one knows that the bird is an American Redstart or a Yellow-throated Warbler, a Sibley or Peterson can help identify age, specific plumage, and subspecies.

So why not carry the trusted Peterson and be done with it? Because a critical component of the book’s value proposition is the focused distribution and abundance information, which is of great value to visiting birders, as well as those wanting to increase their knowledge of avifauna in the Carolinas. Knowing, for example, that a birder wanting to add American Avocet to their North Carolina list needs to plan a trip to Pea Island NWR, since the species is uncommon to rare anywhere else in the state, is the equivalent of a gold nugget.

And if even that is not enough, then just get the book for pearls scattered throughout such as the mnemonic: “Eew Eew I-stepped-in-Poo!” Which Carolina bird repeats this phrase from moist tangles starting in mid-April? You’ll have to get a copy of the book and find out!



Welcome New Members!

Joshua Austin
Columbia, SC

Lori Black
Myrtle Beach, SC

Joyce Brendel
Newport, NC

Amanda Briggs
Chapel Hill, NC

Maria de Bruyn
Chapel Hill, NC

Pat Chappell
Chapel Hill, NC

Rebecca Chick
Bluffton, SC

Mary Lou Dickson
Box Elder, SD

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Amy Roundtree
Lexington, SC

David & Sandy Eslinger
Hazel Benard
Summerville, SC

Kristal Gauthier
Greenville, NC

Ryan Griffith
New Bern, NC

Teri Holland
Berryville, VA

Carey Humphrey
Raleigh, NC

Brenda Kramar
Kyle Rice
Columbia, SC

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Asheville, NC

Jimmy & Mary Long
Taylorsville, NC

Terrie McDaniel
Chapel Hill, NC

David McKay
San Francisco, CA

Dana & Lisa Miller
Kinston, NC

Paul & Mary Ellen Padula
Okatie, SC

Barbara Reynolds
Asheville, NC

Stephanie Rossi
Bluffton, SC

Mary Rosenstein
Bluffton, SC

Jane Rouse
Raleigh, NC

Benjamin Smith
Irmo, SC

Jenny & Fred Stengel
Johns Island, SC

John & Teresa Virgint
Troy, OH

Art Webster
Marion, NC

Christopher Welch
Chapel Hill, NC

Jackie & Eric White
Leland, NC



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Fall 2017—Litchfield Beach, South Carolina

Spring 2018—Flat Rock, North Carolina

Winter 2018—Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

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Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
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www.carolinabirdclub.org—UPDATE

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Membership dues include \$4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162:7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 63

August 2017

Number 4

Friday, Sept 29 & Saturday, Sept 30, 2017 Field Trip Itinerary

All meeting places for field Trips are in the parking lot of Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort unless otherwise noted. Please be at the meeting place ten minutes early. Times are departure times, and late arrivals will be left. Carpooling is a necessity for all Trips and please remember to reimburse drivers for their gasoline expenses.

Please Note: Trips may change based on leader availability, location alterations and birds etc.

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017—All Day

- Trip 1:** 6:45am, Bull Island, depart from McClellanville at 8 am
- Trip 2:** 7:15am, Huntington Beach State Park
- Trip 3:** 6:45am, Santee Coastal Extended
- Trip 4:** 6:30am, Santee Coastal and Santee Delta
- Trip 5:** 8:00am, Tom Yawkey Center
- Trip 6:** 6:30am, Waties Island

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017—Half:Day Morning

- Trip 7:** 7:00am, Lake Busbee & Conway Water Treatment Plant
- Trip 8:** 7:15am, Samworth WMA/ Dirleton Plantation
- Trip 9:** 7:45am, New Birders Workshop Huntington Beach SP
- Trip 10:** 7:00am, South Tibwin Plantation
- Trip 11:** 7:15am, Myrtle Beach State Park

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017— Half:Day Afternoon

- Trip 12:** 1:30pm, Shorebird workshop
- Trip 13:** 1:10pm, Huntington Beach SP Jetty
- Trip 14:** 1:20pm, Huntington Beach SP trails
- Trip 15:** 1:25pm, New Birder workshop
- Trip 16:** 1:00pm, South Tibwin Plantation

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017—All Day

- Trip 17:** 6:45am, Bull Island, depart McClellanville 8am
- Trip 18:** 7:15am, Huntington Beach State Park
- Trip 19:** 6:45am, Santee Coastal Extended
- Trip 20:** 6:30am, Santee Coastal and Santee Delta
- Trip 21:** 8:00am, Tom Yawkey Center

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017—Half:Day Morning

- Trip 22:** 7:15am, Lake Busbee, & Conway Water Treatment Plant
- Trip 23:** 8:00am, Young Birders:Huntington Beach SP
- Trip 24:** 7:00am, South Tibwin Plantation
- Trip 25:** 7:30am, Myrtle Beach State Park
- Trip 26:** 7:45am, Sandy Island Kayak Trip

Saturday, Sept 30, 2017 : Half:Day Afternoon

- Trip 27:** 1:30pm, Pawleys Island South End
- Trip 28:** 1:15pm, Huntington Beach SP Jetty
- Trip 29:** 1:00pm, South Litchfield Beach
- Trip 30:** 1:15pm, Huntington Beach SP trails

The CBC 2017 Bonus Trip to Costa Rica Led by Sherry Lane P. 7

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Litchfield Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

All Day—Friday & Saturday, Sept. 29 & 30, 2017

Trips 1 (Fri 6:45am) & 17 (Sat 6:45am): Bulls Island.

Bulls Island is a full day boat Trip for \$45 per person. The fee will be collected on board the ferry. They will take cash, check, or credit card. **(Bring lunch and water). We'll be walking on the island all day.** The pearl of Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Bulls Island offers mud banks, saltwater marshes, beaches, freshwater impoundments, ponds, and upland habitats. This place is on anybody's list of the top five birding spots in South Carolina. We have arranged for the ferry to land at the island's north end to reduce the long walk from the regular landing. Here we will look at the massive shorebird roost at high tide, scope the ocean for interesting birds and then check out Jack's Creek impoundment.

Limit 20 on Friday/ 30 on Saturday.

Travel Time: 90 minutes

Facilities: None

Access conditions: Walking all day on island and to and from boat Trips

Trips 2 (Fri 7:15am) & 18 (Sat 7:15am): Huntington Beach State Park.

(\$5 per person entrance fee to the park.) This Trip will cover the jetty at the Huntington Beach State Park, together with the nearby tidal creeks and flats, plus the causeway, Mullet Pond, the education center, salt marsh boardwalk and Sandpiper Pond. The jetty is one of best places in the state to find rarities. The main drawback to visiting the jetty is that it is nearly a 3 mile walk round Trip along the beach from the north parking lot. Bring water and lunch. Some food is available in the park store.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: Walking all day

Trips 3 (Fri 6:45am) & 19 (Sat 6:45am): Santee Coastal Reserve Extended.

This is a new tour of the Santee Coastal Reserve. It will encompass some areas not normally explored. We will cover acres of former rice fields, river frontage along the South Santee River, magnificent Cypress-Tupelo swamp, upland fields and mixed forest. Expect lots of waterfowl and wading birds, hawks, American White Pelicans, Wood Storks, probable rails, sparrows, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Barn Owls if we are lucky, plenty of Bald Eagles with chances for Golden Eagle.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 90 minutes

Facilities: None

Access conditions: Moderate walking all day, buggy

Trips 4 (Fri 6:30am) & 20 (Sat 6:30am): Santee Coastal Reserve and Santee Delta.

Our tour of the Santee Coastal Reserve's and Santee delta will cover the mainland area including rice fields, river frontage along the South Santee River, magnificent Cypress-Tupelo swamp, upland fields and mixed forest. Expect some waterfowl and wading birds, hawks, American White Pelicans, Wood Storks, probable rails, sparrows, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and migrating warblers. We may even find some Owls if we are lucky, plenty of Bald Eagles with chances for Golden Eagle.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 90 minutes

Facilities: None

Access conditions: Moderate walking all day, buggy

Litchfield Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions All Day—Friday & Saturday, Sept. 29 & 30, 2017

Trips 5 (Fri 8:00am) & 21 (Sat 8:00am): Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center.

This area is a SC Heritage Preserve and administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Public access can be rather limited, so we are excited to offer two full day Trips to this fantastic birding area just 20 minutes from Georgetown. Target birds include American Avocet, American White Pelican, Barn Owl, early waterfowl, shorebirds, rails, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, warblers, sparrows and more! Observation towers provide a panoramic view of the south Santee River Delta and surrounding area. This Trip seems to be the one to get it all, in one long day! Bring food and water.

Limit: 13

Travel Time: 60 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: ferry over to island

Litchfield Beach Meeting Field Trip Description All Day-Friday, Sept. 29, 2017

Trip 6 (Fri 6:30am): Waties Island.

Waties Island is one of the last undeveloped barrier islands on the S.C. coast. A true oasis in comparison to the Grand Strand. Saved for generations by one family, Waties is now preserved by a conservation easement and is host to research projects by the faculty and students of Coastal Carolina University. Bring food and water.

Limit: 20

Travel Time: 60 minutes will bus from hotel

Facilities: None

Trip Descriptions Continued P. 4

Friday Evening: An Optical evening and reception. Representatives from two optics dealers will be present to demonstrate binoculars and scopes. They will also do short presentations on choosing the right optics and how to digi-scope, etc. This will be followed by two drawings for binoculars. One will be open to young birders only and the second to new members attending their first meeting. Members are invited to bring any optics that they wish to sell or trade with other members.

Saturday Evening Banquet: Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux (See P. 10) will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Gauthreaux has been a birder since age 10. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of New Orleans, and his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. He is retired from Clemson and has been a long term visiting professor at the university of Illinois. His work with radar for tracking bird migration was groundbreaking. Dr. Gauthreaux is still an active birder and is a former president of the Carolina Bird Club.

Our Field Trips will be both familiar and new. Of course, we will have multiple Trips to Huntington Beach State Park, Myrtle Beach State Park, Santee Coastal Wildlife Management Area, Santee Delta WMA, and Bulls Island. We will again offer two Trips to the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. Our new Trips include Waties Island on Friday only. Waties is the northern most barrier island in S.C. It is one of the most untouched places in the state. We will also have a kayak Trip to Sandy Island. This island is both historic and offers some excellent birding. Other new Trips will be to Dirleton Plantation and Waccamaw WMA and to Lake Busbee.

We will also have a shorebird workshop and field Trip, two New Birder field Trips lead by very experienced birders and a field Trip led by two of our young birders.

Litchfield Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Half-Day — Friday & Saturday, Sept. 29 & 30, 2017

Trips 7(Fri 7:00am) & 22 (Sat 7:15am): Lake Busbee and Conway Treatment Plant.

This Trip offers diverse habitat so we can expect some early waterfowl, migrants, rails, herons, egrets and birds of prey.

Limit: 16

Travel time: 30 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Trip 8 (Fri 7:15am): Samworth WMA and Dirleton Plantation.

This 1500 acre tract is primarily freshwater marsh and impoundments with some longleaf pines and open fields. We will look for rails including King, Clapper and Sora, Woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, sparrows, and migrating warblers.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 45 minutes

Facilities: Limited

Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trips 9 (Fri 7:45am) & 15 (Fri 1:25pm): New Birder Workshop

(\$5 per person state park fee). This is for those new to birding or those who just want a refresher. You will visit Huntington Beach State Park looking and listening for birds in a variety of habitats and observing behavior with a focus on identification techniques. This Trip will be led by one of the premier birders in the Carolinas.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trips 14 (Fri 1:20pm) & 30 (Sat 1:15pm): Huntington Beach State Park Trails.

(\$5 per person entrance fee). Even if you don't go out to the jetty, a Trip to "HBSP" can yield great birding and photographic opportunities. This Trip will cover the causeway, Mullet Pond, the Education Center feeders, salt marsh boardwalk and an overlook on the marshy end of Sandpiper Pond (good for rails and bitterns). This Trip will also visit the beach briefly, but will not make the trek to the jetty. Shorebirds, rails, wading birds, hawks, migrating warblers, owls and falcons.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trips 10 (Fri 7:00am), 16 (Fri 1:00pm) & 24 (Sat 7:00am): South Tibwin Plantation.

In the Francis Marion National Forest, the parking lot is right off of US 17. We'll walk through mature pine forest to medium-sized impoundments that will remind you of the wooded portions of Donnelly WMA. These impoundments are where we hope to find a variety of waterfowl, shore birds, rails, bitterns, etc. Warblers, flycatchers, wrens, and birds of prey are also possible.

Limit: 16 (Please carpool)

Travel Time: 60 minutes

Facilities: None

Access conditions: 3 miles of walking

Litchfield Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Half-Day — Friday & Saturday, Sept. 29 & 30, 2017

Trips 11 (Fri 7:15am) & 25 (Sat 7:30am): Myrtle Beach State Park.

(\$5 per person entrance fee.) We begin at the pier scanning for grebes, gulls terns, and migrating shorebirds, etc. The pier also has restrooms, coffee, snacks etc. Then we will bird the maritime forest and ponds which may yield migrating warblers plus Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler and other passerines. The pond may have wading birds and early ducks. We will look for bittern, rails and sparrows.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 20 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip 12 (Fri 1:30pm): Shorebird Workshop.

The classroom workshop will focus on key characteristics which help birders on all levels quickly and confidently identify a species. We will cover all families of shorebirds, but our primary focus will be Charadriidae (plovers) and Scolopacidae (sandpipers). Modes of identification with which we will practice include size/shape, behaviors, and habitat.

In the field at Huntington Beach State Park: This park can offer ideal foraging habitats for many resident and migratory shorebird species. It provides a great opportunity to focus on silhouette and foraging behavior identification. Some of the target species will be American Avocet, Black-bellied Plover, Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper and the Least Sandpiper. Willet, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, Sanderling, Dowitcher and Whimbrel are all other species we may encounter.

Limit: 16 for field Trip

Travel Time: 30 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: This Trip will involve moderate walking on sandy terrains.

Trips 13 (Fri 1:10pm) & 28 (Sat 1:15pm): Huntington Beach State Park Jetty.

(\$5 per person entrance fee.) These afternoon trips will be to the jetty and the nearby tidal creeks and flats. The jetty is one of best places in the state to find migrating shorebirds. It is nearly a 3-mile round trip walk to the jetty.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: 3 miles of walking on beach.

Trip 23 For Young Birders (Sat 8:00am): Huntington Beach State Park.

This trip to HBSP will be led by one or two of our young birders. While the leaders will be young the participants can be of any age.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: Yes

Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip Descriptions Continued P. 6

Litchfield Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Half-Day — Friday & Saturday, Sept. 29 & 30, 2017

Trip 26 (Sat 7:45am): Sandy Island.

(Discounted fee of \$45 per person) This is a Kayak trip to Sandy Island hosted by Black River Outdoors. Sandy Island is an unincorporated community located between the Pee Dee and Waccamaw Rivers. The community was founded by a freed slave and is still inhabited by some of his descendants. It is the largest undeveloped freshwater island on the east coast and hosts a variety of species the highlight being the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 30 minutes

Facilities: ?

Access conditions: Paddling, and moderate walking

Trip 27 (Sat 1:30pm): Pawleys Island South End.

This trip offers ocean front, inlet and marsh birding. It is a good birding spot especially for those who do not want to make the long trek to the Jetty at HBSP.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: None

Access conditions: Walking on beach

Trips 29 (Sat 1:00pm): South Litchfield Beach.

Located near our hotel, this beach is south of HBSP. Along the causeway leading to the beach is one of the best places to find rails. From the parking lot there is a 1.3 mile walk along the beach where we may see a variety of shorebirds. On the western side of the island we may find plovers, skimmers, and sand-pipers.

Limit: 16

Travel Time: 15 minutes

Facilities: None

Access conditions: Walking on beach

For Sunday Morning Hot Spots, visit - www.carolinabirdclub.org

Some trips and plans may change depending on conditions and bird patterns.

Carolina Bird Club Meeting— September 29-30

Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort

14276 Ocean Highway, Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

Telephone: (843)237-3000 or www.litchfieldbeach.com.

Discounted group rate for 1 bedroom Summerhouse Suites per night is \$93.22 all-inclusive.

Reservations to guarantee a room at this rate by July 28.

CBC Costa Rica 2017 Bonus Trip

By Sherry Lane



Last February the Carolina Bird Club sponsored a bonus trip to Costa Rica. We had a group of 10 CBC birders including myself, plus our excellent local guide, Steven Easley and our friendly bus driver with us throughout the trip.

The group met up in San Jose and loaded up into a new comfortable (everyone has a window seat) Toyota Coaster and set off on our journey. We had 8 full days of birding. We began in the lush middle elevations of the Caribbean slope before descending to the diverse Caribbean lowlands including La Selva OTS.

After the lowlands, we ascended to the middle elevations of the Caribbean slope including the beautiful Tapanti National Park. Our final destination brought us to the Pacific Highlands of the Savegre, home of the stunning Resplendent Quetzal!

Our total bird species count was 350 for the trip! There were so many beautiful birds it is hard to decide which pictures to include, but here are a few of the highlights.

Overall it was an excellent birding adventure. We had the very best local guide who was fun and interesting. All the accommodations were great! The lodges we stayed at were exceptionally nice, clean and comfortable. The food was plentiful and delicious! The local people "Ticos" are so friendly! Costa Rica in my opinion is a birders paradise!

If you are interested in joining in on a CBC bonus trip to Costa Rica stay tuned to the CBC newsletter because we are hoping to run two different trips in February of 2018. This will allow for more participants to go with a maximum of 9 participants per trip.

Pura Vida!



Long-tailed Silky Flycatcher.
Photo by Steve McInnis at Miriam's Restaurant, near Savegre Mountain Lodge. Silky-flycatchers are more closely related to the thrushes and waxwings than to tyrant flycatchers. We also had good looks at its relative the Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher.



Great Green Macaw.
Photo by Audrey Whitlock near La Selva OTS. Unfortunately, these amazing creatures are endangered despite efforts to protect them.

Sunbittern.
Photo by Steve McInnis at Rio Perlas . This bird is amazing when it opens its wings.

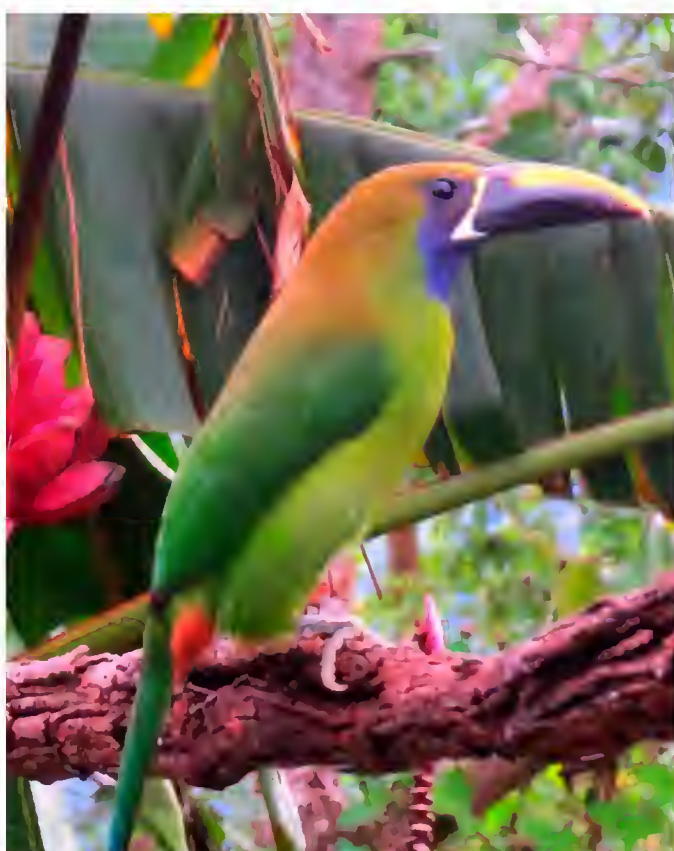
Below is a picture I was given from our guide, Steven Easley, that his father took.



Scarlet Macaw.
Photo by Sherry Lane in the El Tigre area. These incredible birds were endangered but Costa Rica has worked hard to protect them and subsequently they are having a good come back.

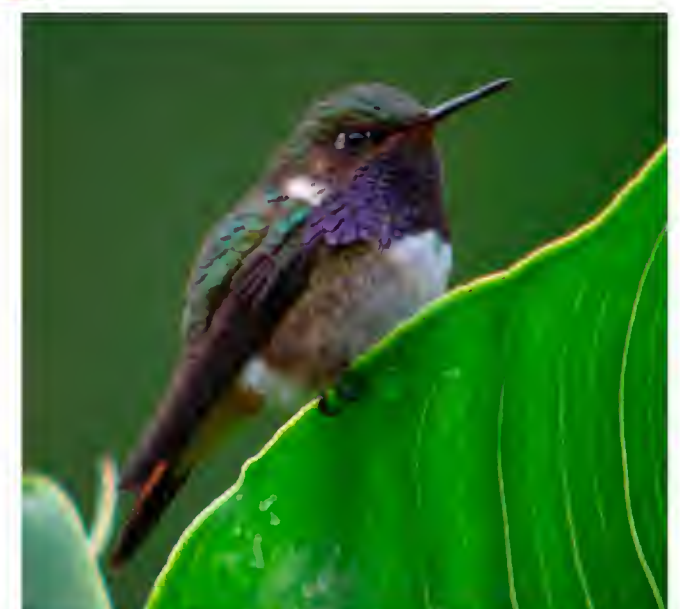


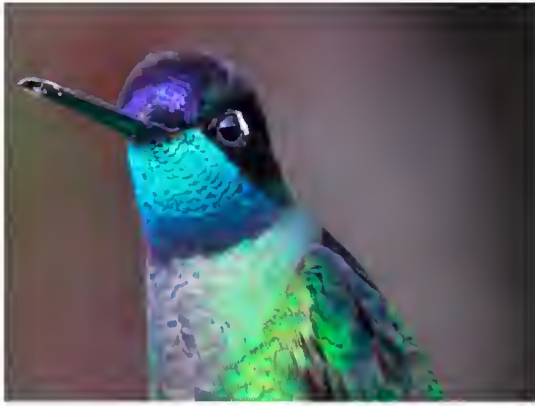
Sulphur-winged Parakeet.
Photo by Audrey Whitlock at Savegre Mountain Lodge. We had 11 different species of parrots!



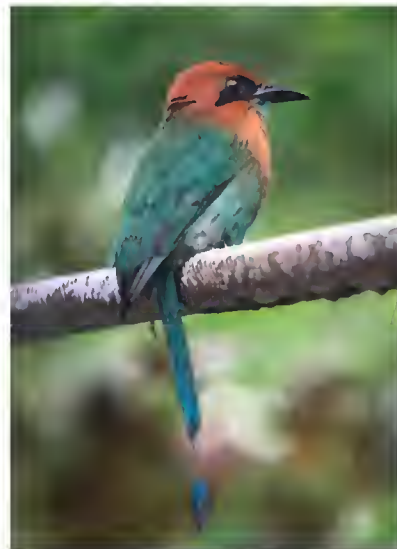
Emerald Toucanet.
Photo by Audrey Whitlock taken at Cinchona . Everyone loves a Toucan! We also saw lots of Col-lared Aracaris, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed Toucans.

Volcano Hummingbird.
Photo by Steven Easley at Savegre Valley. The hummingbirds are amazing in Costa Rica we saw 26 different species!





Magnificent Hummingbird.
Photo by Sherry Lane at Poasito.



Broad-billed Motmot.
Photo by Sherry Lane at La Selva OTS.



Buffy-crowned Wood-partridge.
Photo by Sherry Lane at Savegre Mountain Lodge.
This is another uncommon and usually difficult to see bird that was actually following us along in the trail in Savegre.

Spotted Wood-Quail.
Photo by Sherry Lane at Savegre Mountain Lodge.
This bird was not happy to have the above Buffy-crowned Wood-partridge in his territory and was desperately trying to chase it off.

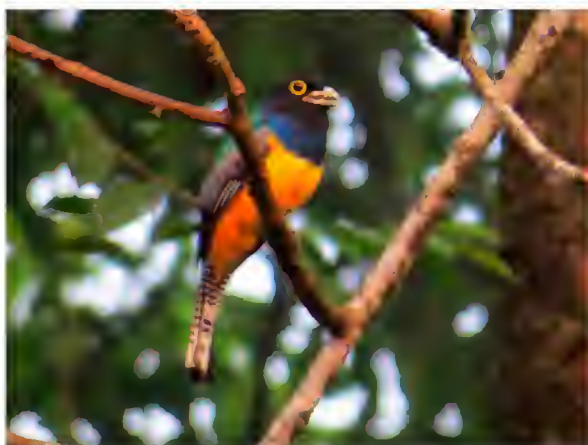


Passerini's Tanager.
Photo by Sherry Lane at La Quinta.



Volcano Junco is a high elevation paramo endemic species to Costa Rica and Panama. He is the big daddy of juncos!
Photo by Sherry Lane in the Paramo of Cerritos de la Muerte.

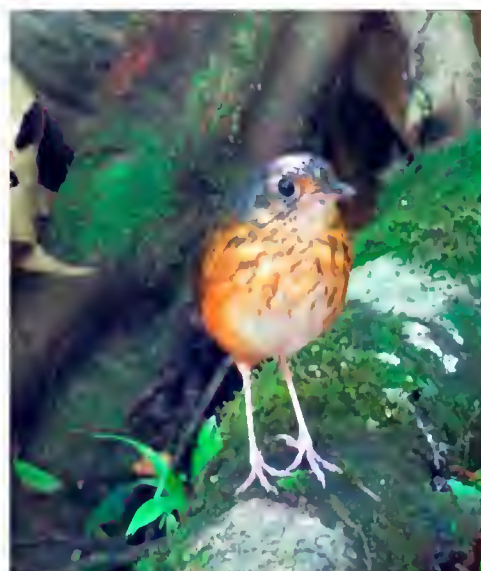
Resplendent Quetzal!
Photo by Sherry Lane.
This stunningly beautiful bird loves to eat avocados. If you know where to find the avocado trees you can find them feeding there in the highlands of Savegre.



Gartered Trogon.
Photo by Sherry Lane at La Selva.

Thicket Antpitta.
Photo by Sherry Lane near Limon Pococi .

This is a very elusive species. We were taken to a special place in the forest by a local birder who has this one trained to come out of hiding and eat worms. We had quite the show!



Silvery-throated Jay.
Photo by Steven Easley.
This was my favorite bird of the trip. It is a very rare species endemic to Costa Rica and Western Panama. They are found in the highlands and are very difficult to find foraging high up in the canopy. We had to take 4x4 jeeps halfway up the mountain and hike the rest of the way up. We were rewarded with good looks and even pictures of this amazing bird!

We also saw 11 mammal species including Three-toed and Two-toed sloths.

Welcome New Members!

Members Upgraded to Life Membership

Chandra Biggerstaff
Greenville, NC

Margaret Small
Asheville, NC

Don Seriff & Kimberly Grant
Greenville, NC

Chrstine Stoughton-Root
Merritt, NC

Mac Williams
Hartsville, SC

New Members

Peggy Baker
Charlotte, NC

Amy Boggan
Hayesville, NC

Vincent Connors
Isaure de Buron-Connors
Spartanburg, SC

Carolyn Craig
Davidson, NC

Steven & Mary Dingeldein
Burlington, NC

Robert Driver
Greenville, NC

Duncan Ellison
Columbia, SC

Sarah Hierholzer
Michael Kacmarcik
Simpsonville, SC

Linda Holman
Wilmington, NC

Patricia McClurkin
Hendersonville, NC

Jelmer Poelstra
Chapel Hill, NC

Crystal Reynolds
Charleston, SC

Tom Schatzman
Charleston, SC

Roger Shaw
Raleigh, NC

Debbie & Jimmy Shetterly
Todd, NC

Margaret Small
Asheville, NC

Anne Tyson
Lakeland, FL

Blaine Wise
Charleston, SC



Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux received his B.S. from LSU at New Orleans (now the University of New Orleans) in June 1963; M.S. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, in August 1965; Ph.D. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, in August 1968; and held a Post-Doctorate Fellowship at the Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia from fall 1968 until fall 1970. He retired from Clemson University where he was a faculty member from 1970-2006 and taught ornithology, animal behavior, and behavioral ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences. He currently consults in the area of Remote Sensing and Technology and is a part-time faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign where he works with a group assessing avian radars that can be used to prevent bird/aircraft collisions.

Dr. Gauthreaux's research emphasis on studies of bird migration across the Gulf of Mexico began in graduate school in the early 1960s and continues today. He has used combinations of radar and direct visual techniques to study the characteristics and geographical patterns of bird migration throughout the United States. His research in applied ornithology has examined 1) the attraction of migrating birds at night to different types of lighting on tall towers, 2) the risks of migrating birds colliding with man-made structures such as transmission lines, towers, and wind turbines, and 3) the problem of aircraft colliding with migrating birds.

Online registration opens on August 12 @ 2:00pm and closes September 23 at 8:00am.
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Litchfield Beach, SC Registration Form

Name(s) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Day Phone (____) ____-____ Evening Phone (____) ____-____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$30 = \$_____
Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____ x \$35 = \$_____
Buffet Dinner _____ x \$30 = \$_____

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1 st /2 nd Choice	P.M. 1 st /2 nd Choice	All-day 1 st /2 nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right. Meeting registration at the door costs \$40.

Total Enclosed = \$_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader’s assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club
and send to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled.

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens. Register online for the best availability of field trips.

Cancellations will be refunded if received by September 16 at 6:00pm. Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option, check here: _____ # persons _____



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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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Raleigh, NC 27612

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and additional mailing offices

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Winter 2018—Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

Spring 2018—Flat Rock, North Carolina

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Merritt, NC
cssrbdr@gmail.com

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Paul Dayer, Durham, NC

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Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC
Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC
Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC

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Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC
Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC

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CBC Newsletter Editor: Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,
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www.carolinabirdclub.org—UPDATE

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Membership dues include \$4 for a subscription to ***CBC Newsletter*** and \$5 for a subscription to *The Chat*. **Cost for CBC bird checklists**, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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Carolina Bird Club
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CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 63

October 2017

Number 5

2018 CBC Winter Meeting Coming to Wrightsville Beach, NC January 26th to 28th

By Katherine Higgins

The Wilmington and Southport Christmas Bird Counts consistently rank nationally in the top five counts for the most number of species seen. The species counts approach 160 each winter for these two areas in the Lower Cape Fear River basin. The field trips at the Carolina Bird Club winter 2018 meeting will cover some of these same areas. The meeting headquarters is at Wrightsville Beach and the dates are January 26 through 28, only a few weeks after the Christmas Bird Count dates. Here is some early information about the meeting.

The Lower Cape Fear offers some of the best winter birding spots in the Carolinas with a variety of habitats including the ocean, maritime forests, saltwater mud-flats, freshwater lakes and marshes, pine forests and more.



Cape Fear River

Wrightsville Beach is just across the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) from Wilmington. The two towns are situated between the Cape Fear River and the Ocean. Wrightsville Beach and Wilmington boast of many fine restaurants along the coast and in the downtown area respectively. The Wilmington downtown River Walk along the Cape Fear River is a great place to hang out for site seeing, shopping and for great food and beverages. So even though our hotel is on Wrightsville Beach, Wilmington is just across a couple of bridges to our west.



Great Cormorant. Photo Naturephoto-cz.com.

The field trip areas in and around Wrightsville Beach will provide opportunities to see birds such as the Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows, Orange-crowned Warblers, Loggerhead Shrikes, Marbled Godwits, four Rail species, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Great Cormorant, Anhinga, and three scoter species. Some rare birds which might be seen include Ross's Goose, Dickcissel, Bachman's Sparrow, Razorbill and Parasitic Jaeger.

/Continued P. 2

2018 CBC Winter Meeting/Continued

by Katherine Higgins



Northern Gannet.
Photo by Roads End Naturalist

Ocean watching at Wrightsville Beach will be available from Johnnie Mercer's pier and from the hotel. If you have never watched the Northern Gannets fishing just outside the waves, you are in for a real treat.

We will be near winter birding hotspots that include: Johnnie Mercer's Pier, Airlie Gardens, Greenfield Lake, the Battleship North Carolina area, Ft. Fisher, Kure Beach, Bald Head Island, Oak Island, Brunswick Town, and Boiling Spring Lakes.



Nature Photographer Dr. David Blevins

We have already lined up two guest speakers that should interest you. Friday night we will hear from David Blevins. Dr. Blevins is a nature photographer, writer, and ecologist. He combines a sense of wonder with an artistic eye to create images that help tell stories about the meaning and significance of the natural world. He received a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of British Columbia, as well as M.S. and B.S. degrees in forest science from North Carolina State University. His newest book, "North Carolina's Barrier Islands," reveals the natural character of barrier islands, the forces that shape them and the sense of wonder they inspire. His previous book, "Wild North Carolina," is a visual journey to the best remaining examples of natural communities across the State.



ABA Record Holder and Photographer Laura Keene

To prepare for Saturday night's speaker you might want to watch "The Big Year" movie one more time. Laura Keene will entertain us with her photographs and tales from her big year chase in 2016. Laura holds the current ABA record for number of birds photographed in one calendar year.

2018 CBC Winter Meeting/continued

by Katherine Higgins



Blockade Runner Beach Resort on Wrightsville Beach

Our meeting site headquarters and host hotel is the Blockade Runner Beach Resort on Wrightsville Beach.

Half of the rooms have ocean and sunrise views and half have views of the Inter Coastal Waterway and the sunset.

Room rates respectively will be a bargain: \$95 and \$85 plus taxes. A full chef-prepared breakfast is included in the room rates.

The hotel will also host our Saturday night buffet and their chef is highly rated and recommended by frequent visitors. The rooms have king or queen bed(s), 42" Plasma TV, WiFi, refrigerator, coffee maker, and hair dryer. Check out their web-site and ocean cam at: <http://blockade-runner.com>.

The address of the hotel is:

275 Waynick Boulevard, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.

For reservations call 910-256-2251 and make sure to tell them you are with the Carolina Bird Club.



Blockade Runner Beach Resort on Wrightsville Beach Ocean View Room



Boat Slip at Blockade Runner Beach Resort



Gardens at Blockade Runner Beach Resort

Look for registration information and trip descriptions in the December CBC Newsletter and on our web-site: www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Hope to see you at Wrightsville Beach in January 2018!

CBC February 2018 Bonus Trips To Costa Rica!

Led by Sherry Lane

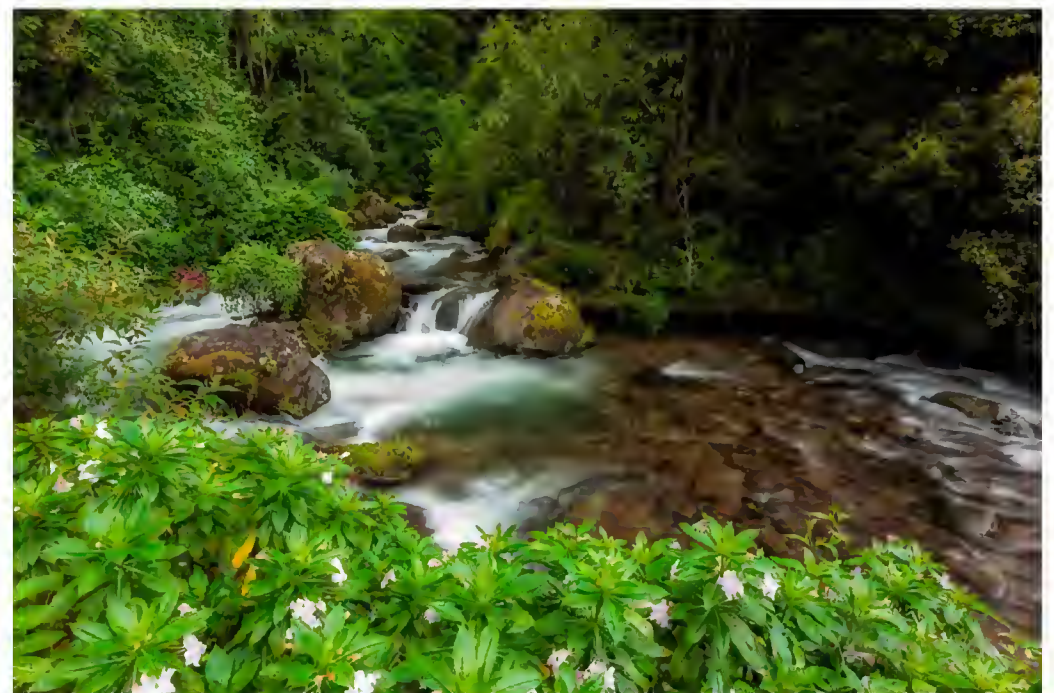
Carolina Bird Club is Offering 2 Bonus Trips to Costa Rica in February of 2018.



Arenal Volcano, Costa Rica

The first trip will be "Northern Costa Rica" and will run from **February 17 to February 26.**

This will include the best birding sites in the Central Pacific near Carara NP, the dry NW known as Guanacaste, the Northern Caribbean wetlands of Cano Negro and the Caribbean foothills of scenic Arenal Volcano.



Savegre Foothills, Costa Rica

The second trip will be "Southern Costa Rica" and will run from **February 25 to March 6.** This trip will include the Highlands including Savegre and Pacific foothills as well as Pacific Southwest Costa Rica.



Sungrebe. Photo by Steven Easley

Both trips will be packed with excellent birding. For a detailed itinerary and description of each trip and information on registration, please go the CBC website.



Firey-billed Aracari. Photo by Kevin Easley

www.carolinabirdclub.org

Ultimate South Florida Birding

By Steve Compton



*Steve Compton, right, with birding buddy, Richard Hayes, covered South Florida from Kissimmee and Sebastian Inlet to Fort Jefferson.
Photographed by Larry Manfredi.*

***For over thirty years I have planned to visit South Florida.
From May 11 to May 17 this year, I finally pulled it off.***

My birding buddy Richard Hayes and I have had success in new spots entirely on our own such as the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Colorado, but this time we decided that a tour guide would make our trip more effective. So we hired Homestead, Florida-based guide Larry Manfredi for his "Ultimate South Florida Tour".

The tour included seven full days in the field, and we covered South Florida from Kissimmee and Sebastian Inlet to Fort Jefferson. The tour size was only three plus the leader. So we were able to move fast and cover a lot of ground.

/Continued P. 6

Ultimate South Florida Birding By Steve Compton/Continued

My potential life list target list was 35, but this included a lot of West Indian strays. I hoped for at least 11 life birds to bring my American Birding Association (ABA) area total to 600. It turned out I got all of my target birds and added four rare birds, the most unusual the ABA category 5 Bahama Woodstar hummingbird. We saw about 145 species total and I saw 17 (!) ABA life birds, photographing all but the Red-footed Booby seen at a distance from the parapet of Fort Jefferson.



White-crowned Pigeon. Photographed by Steve Compton.

Many of the parrot species are becoming established but have not yet been voted in. So we decided to take some time to document all of the species we encountered, filing them away in the expectation that they will be voted in someday soon. The Scaly-breasted Munia and Mitred Parakeet fell into this category.



Mangrove Cuckoo. Photographed by Steve Compton.

The list also included the Florida endemic Mangrove Cuckoo, the Black-whiskered Vireo, and elusive White-crowned Pigeon. We also got all the usual Miami-area exotics: Egyptian Goose, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Purple (Gray-headed) Swamphen, Spot-breasted Oriole, Common Myna, and White-winged Parakeet.

Part of the fun and challenge of this trip was figuring out what birds are presently ABA-countable. Miami and southern Florida have perhaps the largest population of free-flying parrots and other exotic species.



Gray Kingbird. Photographed by Steve Compton.

Waiting for Larry in Florida City, we picked up Gray Kingbird and Common Myna in the parking lot. Larry met us with the words: "Ready? Let's go see a Western Spindalis". Unprecedented numbers of West Indian species have been seen in south Florida this spring, with the Western Spindalis persisting in several locations for several weeks.

Ultimate South Florida Birding By Steve Compton/Continued



Western Spindalis. Photographed by Steve Compton.

We got a good close-up look in a few minutes on Key Largo. After that we got looks at the rather common Black-whiskered Vireo.

A bit more effort, as usual, was required for the Mangrove Cuckoo. Both sang extensively. White-crowned Pigeons offered tantalizing looks on Key Largo and every day in the Keys, but were not well-seen until Key West.



*Brown Noddies on the coal docks at Fort Jefferson.
Photographed by Steve Compton.*

On day two we worked our way down the Keys picking up Antillean Nighthawks flying with Common at Big Pine Key and Roseate Terns at Marathon. We got up early the next day for the big trip to Fort Jefferson, the centerpiece of the trip for me. There we picked up all the expected species, adding a surprise Red-footed Booby perched at the far end of nearby Bush Key!

Frigatebirds, Sooty Terns, and Brown Noddies were very common, Masked and Brown Booby were present, and a large group of passerine migrants rested on the parade ground inside the massive fort. The only "miss" of the entire week occurred when Black Noddy, occasionally seen with the Browns, was absent.

The Yankee Freedom ferry from Key West was easy to use and is highly recommended. A spring trip to the fort ought to be on every birder's bucket list. Day five took us through Miami for the exotics.

Red-whiskered Bulbul became my 600th ABA area bird. Then we drove for about three hours up the Atlantic coast on a hot tip that a Bahama Woodstar, only seen five times previously in the ABA area, had been seen the day before in the Sebastian inlet area.



Bahama Woodstar. Photographed by Richard Hayes.

After several hours of patient search with other birders, we decided to take a break and were on the way to eat when the call came: "Woodstar here right now!" So Larry made a quick u-turn and we hurried back, and were rewarded with good looks and eventually photos of this very rare West Indian hummingbird.

Day six took us further inland to the pine woods and lakes of central Florida. We spent hours that day and another looking for a Short-tailed Hawk, and were finally rewarded with a distant look at a circling distant bird.

/Continued P. 8

Ultimate South Florida Birding/Continued

Various lakes yielded Snail Kite and Fulvous Whistling Duck, and the Circle B Bar Preserve was visited on a hot tip that a Ruff was there. We did see the Ruff and found the preserve full of very approachable waders like Limpkin and Roseate Spoonbill. It was our best photo spot of the trip.



Forked-tail Flycatcher. Photographed by Richard Hayes.

Our last day was spent further down in central Florida, visiting Clewiston on Lake Okeechobee for a rare Fork-tailed Flycatcher and further south for the hard-to-find Smooth-billed Ani in scrubland.

Larry knows all the great places for seafood. You will eat well on this tour and also walk a lot if you choose. Larry Manfredi Tours are highly recommended.

The Chat-Membership Notification

Beginning with the Winter 2018 issue, The Chat will be published online only. Discontinuing print publication will result in significant financial savings, a percentage of which will be deposited into the CBC Conservation Fund for future conservation efforts throughout North and South Carolina. This also of course saves trees by reducing paper consumption. The Chat has been optionally available online for several years and about a quarter of the membership has already chosen to receive it only online.

Thank you,
Christine Stoughton-Root, President, CBC

CBC Young Birders Club

We have field trips and events for Young Birders throughout the Carolinas Region. We are eager to add new members.



If you are interested in joining the CBC Young Birders Club or know a young birder in the Carolinas, please e-mail at mjanson@carolinayoungbirdersclub.org. We are a club for any young person aged 8-19 who has a interest in birds and lives in the Carolinas.

It's free to join. All that we ask is to stay in contact with us and participate!

"Connecting Generations Through Birding."



At the Winston-Salem meeting in April, young birders (l to r) Savannah Boucino, Laura Quadarella, Conor Quadarella, and Juliana Boucino joined veteran birder Marion Clark (r).

Welcome New Members!

Upgraded to Life Membership

Linda Allman
Columbia, SC

Steve Shultz
Apex, NC

New Members

Janette Bame & Robert Dixon
Concord, NC

Linda Barry
Latta, SC

Bob & Carol Benston
Monroe, NC

Bob Butler
Asheville, NC

Christie Cantrell
Raleigh, NC

Nancy Coombs
Columbia, SC

Joanna Culliton
Pawleys Island, SC

Jody Davison
Fort Mill, SC

Patricia Fischer
Chapel Hill, NC

Wade Gassman
Belvedere, SC

Candace Gillespie
Audubon South Carolina
Harleyville, SC

Rebecca Goggans
Arden, NC

Thomas, Carly and Talon Gray
Winston Salem, NC

Cynthia Hever
Holly Springs, NC

Alicia Johansen
Gainesville, FL

Patty Masten
Charlotte, NC

Judith Mauer
Hartwell, GA

George McHenry
Belton, SC

Robert O'Dell
Charleston, SC

Deborah Phillips
Pawleys Island, SC

Mary Reeves
Saluda, NC

Michelle Reid
Wake Forest, NC

Darrylin Smith
Hampstead, NC

McKenna Sprouse
Columbia, SC

Susan Lyon Stone
Carrboro, NC

Cynthia Wallace
Murrells Inlet, SC



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Karyl Gabriel, High Point, NC
Katherine Higgins, Wilmington, NC
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Lewis Burke, Columbia, SC
Steve McInnis, Columbia, SC

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Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

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For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 63

December 2017

Number 6

CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Schedule

Friday, January 26 & Saturday, January 27

Register online at www.carolinabirdclub.org

Friday All Day Trips

- Trip 1** - Oak Island and Ft. Caswell—6:30AM
- Trip 2** - Bald Head Island—7:00AM
- Trip 3** - Holly Shelter Game Land
and Topsail Beach— 6:45AM
- Trip 4** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:15AM
- Trip 5** - Southport and Boiling Springs Lakes—7:00AM
- Trip 6** - Brunswick Nature Park, Orton Lake,
Funston Farm—7:15AM

Friday Half-Day Morning Trips

- Trip 7** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:00AM
- Trip 8** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—6:45AM
- Trip 9** - Airlie Gardens—8:00 AM
- Trip 10** - Greenfield Lake and Hotspots—7:15AM
- Trip 11** - Carolina Beach State Park —7:30AM
- Trip 12** - Burnt Mill Creek —7:45AM

Friday Half-Day Afternoon Trips

- Trip 13** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.— 1:00PM
- Trip 14** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—1:00PM
- Trip 15** - Carolina Beach State Park—1:00PM
- Trip 16** - Airlie Gardens—1:15 PM
- Trip 17** - Greenfield Lake and Hotspots—1:15PM
- Trip 18** - Novice Birders—1:15PM

Saturday All Day Trips

- Trip 19** - Oak Island and Ft. Caswell—6:30AM
- Trip 20** - Bald Head Island—7:00AM
- Trip 21** - Holly Shelter Game Land and Topsail Beach
6:45AM
- Trip 22** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:15AM
- Trip 23** - Southport and Boiling Springs Lakes -7:00AM
- Trip 24** - Brunswick Nature Park, Orton Lake,
Funston Farm 7:15AM
- Trip 25** - Young Birders' Ramble 6:30AM

Saturday Half-Day Morning Trips

- Trip 26** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—7:00AM
- Trip 27** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—6:45AM
- Trip 28** - Airlie Gardens—8:00AM
- Trip 29** - Greenfield Lake/Hotspots—7:15AM
- Trip 30** - Carolina Beach State Park—7:30AM
- Trip 31** - Burnt Mill Creek—7:45AM
- Trip 32** - Photography Workshop—8:00AM

Saturday Half-Day Afternoon Trips

- Trip 33** - Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.—1:00PM
- Trip 34** - Wrightsville Beach and Piers—1:00PM
- Trip 35** - Carolina Beach State Park—1:00PM
- Trip 36** - Airlie Gardens—1:15 PM
- Trip 37** - Greenfield Lake/Hotspots—1:15PM

Trip Descriptions on Pages 3-5

Wrightsville Beach in the Winter

By Katherine Higgins

We have some beautiful beaches in North Carolina and many people vacation on them in the summer. But have you ever been to those same beautiful beaches in the winter time? If not, you are in for a treat. Wrightsville Beach is a beautiful, wide, bright-white sand beach and the CBC host hotel is ocean front. You will find that the beach is far less crowded in the winter and it is just as beautiful as it is in the summer. While you are enjoying your morning coffee, you can view Gannets fishing offshore or if you choose a sound-side room you may view a loon or two swimming among the docked boats in the Intracoastal. Our host hotel for the CBC Winter 2018 meeting is the Blockade Runner, located at 275 Waynick Blvd., Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480. Room rates are \$95.00 for ocean-front rooms and \$85.00 for sound-side rooms. These rates do not include taxes, but they do include a chef-cooked breakfast in the hotel dining room. You will also have access to the hotel's fitness center, sauna and hot tub areas. The hotel chef will also prepare our Saturday night buffet meal. The cost for the buffet is \$32.00. The web-site for the hotel is: www.blockade-runner.com. You can check out their amenities and their beach-cam, but **you must call the hotel to make your reservation in order to get our special CBC discounted rates. Call 910-256-2251.** Make sure you identify yourself as a CBC member when you call. The hotel will only hold our reserved block of rooms until January 3, 2018; so, reserve your hotel room early.

Our Friday night speaker will be professional nature photographer, writer and ecologist, Dr. David Blevins. He will be selling and autographing both of his new books. Dr. Blevins will be teaching a photography workshop on Saturday morning.

On Saturday night our speaker will be Laura Keene. Ms. Keene did a "Big Year" in 2016. She shattered the "species photographed" record, breaking Neil Hayward's 2013 ABA mark; and she even established a standard for the new ABA area including Hawaii. You might want to watch the movie "The Big Year" to get ready for her talk on Saturday night.

Wrightsville Beach is just across the Intracoastal Waterway from the city of Wilmington, NC. There are some activities that non-birding spouses and birders may want to take advantage of while visiting the area. If you love to ride bikes, check out the Gary Shell Cross City Bike Trail at <https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/gary-shell-cross-city-trail>. This mostly paved bike trail meanders for 15 miles from Wrightsville Beach all the way across Wilmington, passing through many of the city parks along its path. And birding can be good when you are riding bikes quietly along the trail.

Wilmington also has a downtown boardwalk along the Cape Fear River. The 1.8 mile River Walk passes historic sites, shops and some great river-side restaurants. While you are downtown, you can take a ride through some of the most historic parts of town in a horse-drawn carriage. **Check out www.wilmingtonnc.gov or www.wilmingtondowntown.com for more information.** If you would like a ride down the Cape Fear River, boats are available for hire along the River Walk (weather permitting).

The field trip line-up covers the ocean, coastal fresh-water and salt-water marshes, ferry rides, islands, maritime forests, lakes and streams. Register for the meeting on-line and pick your field trips early to get your first choices. Hope to see you at Wrightsville Beach in January.

Directions to the hotel: take US 74 East until you cross the Intracoastal Waterway drawbridge onto Wrightsville Beach. After the drawbridge, stay right at the fork and proceed onto US 76 East. Cross a smaller bridge over another portion of the waterway and take an immediate right at the stop light onto Waynick Boulevard. The Blockade Runner hotel will be on your left about 0.3 miles south.

CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 19: Oak Island and Ft. Caswell

From the beachfront of Caswell Beach to the lawns of Ft. Caswell and on to the salt marshes and woods of Fish Factory Road, participants will be treated to a broad mixture of seabirds, shorebirds, raptors, sparrows, winter songbirds, ducks, waders, terns, and gulls. This route, borrowed from the Southport Christmas Count, is very productive and usually yields a few surprises! Time permitting and if accessible, a quick stop at the Yaupon Beach Pier may be included. Individuals will be charged \$5.00 for a grounds pass at the Fort. There is a lot of walking on this trip. (Restrooms and lunch places are available.) **Travel time 60 minutes.**

Trips 2, 20: Bald Head Island

Bald Head Island offers a fun day with more than just birds to look at. This trip may include the Fort Fisher ferry, weather permitting, on the way to the Bald Head Island Ferry. The BHI Ferry is a 20-minute ride with views of the wonderful homes on the island, and both the Cape Fear River basin and the ocean. The birding in winter can be very interesting. Northern Gannets are seen over the ocean, and there is always the possibility for scoters and the occasional jaegers. In the wooded areas of the island you can look for an Orange-crowned Warbler or Blue-headed Vireo. Bald Head Island has an environment unlike other places in North Carolina. Cabbage palmettos are common and this is their northern limit. The flora and fauna of the Island are similar to the coastal areas of South Carolina. The island also features the oldest lighthouse in North Carolina, fondly called Old Baldy. There are additional costs associated with this field trip. The cost of the trip at registration is \$60.00 per person. This price includes the BHI ferry, the golf carts and the cost of a BHI Conservancy guide on the Island. Additionally, participants will need to pay the parking at the BHI ferry terminal (\$10.00 per car) and the Ft. Fisher Ferry (\$5.00 per car). The fee paid during registration is subject to the same no-refund deadline (January 12, 2018) as the registration and banquet fees. (Restrooms available and bring lunch and water.) **Travel time 60 minutes to BHI Ferry Terminal or 45 minutes to Fort Fisher.**

Trips 3, 21: Holly Shelter Game Lands

This trip will focus on longleaf pine-wiregrass habitats within the Holly Shelter Game Land. We should find Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and there is a good chance of finding one or more Bachman's Sparrows, even though they become very secretive and mouse-like in the cooler months. Maybe we will get lucky and find a Henslow's Sparrow, although finding this species will be more of a long shot. Walking in these habitats is fairly easy, but if there have been recent rains it will be wet. Participants should be prepared for some wet spots with up to an inch of water. Additionally, we will be checking some privately-owned property for Henslow's and LeConte's sparrows. (Limited restroom availability except at lunchtime, lots of walking in possibly very wet areas.) **Travel time 45 minutes.**

Trips 4, 7, 13, 22, 26, 33: Fort Fisher, Aquarium, etc.

We have all-day and many half-day trips planned to Fort Fisher because these well-known hot-spots offer some of the best winter birding on the North Carolina coast. The ocean here is attractive to many birds because of the biologically-rich hard-bottomed areas just off shore. These trips also offer the chance to see winter passerines around the Fort area. At Federal Point we'll look for grebes, shorebirds, terns, gulls, and raptors. Kure Beach offers ocean views that should include gannets, loons and all scoter species. The ocean here has seen rarities including grebes, alcids, rare sea ducks, and possibly Purple Sandpipers. (Restrooms available and restaurants. Driving and limited walking).

Travel time 45 minutes.

/Continued P.4

CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 5 and 23: Southport and Boiling Spring Lakes

This trip will include the ferry from Fort Fisher to Southport so be prepared to pay the ferry fees (\$5.00 per car). The first stop will be The Nature Conservancy's Boiling Spring Lakes Preserve, known for overwintering songbirds, sparrows, and waterfowl. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and the other seven species of NC woodpeckers are possible. Afterwards, we will return to Southport and bird as many hotspots as time permits, including the waterfront/marina area, Smithville Burying Grounds, community ponds, and Shepard Road area fields. These sites host overwintering and resident raptors, sparrows, shorebirds, terns, and waterfowl. The exact stops on this portion of the trip will be dictated by Southport Christmas Count results. (Restrooms and lunch spots are available.) **Travel time 60 minutes.**

Trips 6 and 24: Brunswick Nature Park, Orton Lake, Funston Farm, etc.

This route may offer Brunswick County's widest variety of winter birds. Winter specialties at Brunswick Town include Rusty Blackbirds, woodpeckers, owls, and many species of overwintering songbirds. Up to seven species of woodpeckers plus American Woodcocks and Winter and House Wrens are possible. Bald Eagles, Anhinga, and several varieties of ducks and scoters are likely on the Cape Fear River or on nearby Orton Pond. After the Brunswick Town stop, we will drive through the Funston Farms area searching for Eastern Meadowlark, Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit, and sparrows. This trip will end at Brunswick Nature Park on Town Creek where species observed may include Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, and Fox Sparrow. (Restrooms and lunch stops available.) **Travel time 30 minutes.**

Trips 8, 14, 27 and 34: Wrightsville Beach & Piers

From Mason Inlet on the north end to Masonboro Inlet on the south end, this trip features ocean and jetty scanning for rarities. Targeted areas, observed from the beach or end of Johnny Mercer's Pier, include the legendary loon flock off the island's north end that extends to pier. There are no guarantees, but this flock has consistently produced writ-ins on the Christmas Count plus many rare winter bird sightings with birds such as Pacific Loon, Thick-billed Murre, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, and Razorbills. Shorebirds and water birds observed at the inlets and jetties may include Purple Sandpiper, Piping Plover, and Great Cormorant. There will be some walking on the beaches and it could be cold at the end of the pier. If you have a spotting scope, please bring it with you. (Restrooms and restaurants are available.) **Travel time 5 minutes.**

Trips 9, 16, 28, 36: Airlie Gardens

Established in 1901, Airlie Gardens is a valuable cultural and ecological component of New Hanover County and North Carolina history. You'll have the opportunity to view 10 acres of freshwater lakes and the grandeur of the 462 year-old Airlie Oak. Waterbirds such as ducks, egrets, herons, kingfishers, cormorants, and Ospreys are common. Watch for winter passerines as you walk around the well-kept grounds. On any given day it is easy to spot more than 30 species of birds while traversing the gardens. Individuals will be charged \$5.00 for a grounds pass (the usual fee is \$8). Leisurely walking. (Restrooms available.) **Travel time 5 minutes**

Trips 10, 17, 29, 37: Greenfield Lake & Wilmington Winter Hotspots

Wilmington has many great winter hotspots! Following routes that will include many sites on the Christmas Bird Count, we will visit places such as Greenfield Lake and Oakdale Cemetery. Each of the four trips may follow a different route depending heavily on what's being seen the week of the CBC meeting, time of day, and rare bird sightings. Some of the best birds regularly seen include Anhinga, Sora, Winter Wren, Rusty Blackbird, and maybe a rare winter sparrow. Expect extended walks, mostly on paved trails. (Restrooms available.) **Travel time 20 minutes.**

CBC Wrightsville Beach Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 11, 15, 30, and 35: Carolina Beach State Park

Carolina Beach State Park offers varied habitats and birding opportunities. The land is slightly more than a mile wide between the ocean and the Cape Fear River. The state park's unique setting will have you scanning the marina area to check out the Cape Fear River and the Intracoastal Waterway. There are shrubby spots to look for winter passerines. Waterfowl will be viewed at freshwater pond sites. You may have the opportunity for some ocean watching from the pier. With sites close together, you'll spend a lot of your time birding and less time driving between stops. (Restrooms available.) **Travel time 30 minutes**

Trips 12 and 31: Burnt Mill Creek

This field trip will follow Burnt Mill Creek, a tidal creek located in the heart of urbanized Wilmington. The creek is bordered by widely variable habitat, including an intact cypress swamp, mowed open grass areas, several distinct historic neighborhoods, the Wilmington National Cemetery, and small engineered wetlands. This is an easy "out and back" walk along a City-maintained greenway, for a distance of 1.3 miles (one-way). We have a good chance to see Red-Headed Woodpecker, Brown-Headed Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, and a variety of raptors and sparrows. Painted Bunting, Baltimore Oriole and Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird have been recorded in adjacent neighborhoods in prior winters. Time permitting, we may detour to a nearby rugby field, retention pond, or backyard feeder if there is a visiting rarity. We will plan to meet and park at the Port City Java directly adjacent to the Creek, so there will be an opportunity to get a good cup of coffee before or after the walk. **Travel time 20 minutes.**

Trip 18 Novice Birders

If you are a little intimidated by some of our fast-paced birding trips, you might want to come on this trip. You will be with an experienced birder who will give you some tips on finding the birds and seeing the birds. This will be an instructive trip and activities will be based on the skill levels of the attendees. **Limited Driving. Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. And have fun!**

Trip 25: Young Birders Ramble

This trip will be led by a young birder with great birding skills. Be prepared for some fast-paced chasing of special birds that have been seen so far during the meeting. The only thing I can promise about this trip is that you will have fun and you will see birds. Be prepared for anything and everything. **Be prepared to go anywhere.**

Trip 32: Workshop for Photographing the Natural World

David Blevins will lead a discussion about nature photography and address the questions and interests of participants. This can include technical aspects of cameras and lenses, postprocessing, working with natural light, photography techniques for everything from landscape to bird photography, as well as broader discussions about the creative process, finding and working with subjects, and developing your own personal style. Bring one or two of your own images if you would like feedback on your own images. Depending on the size of the group, the workshop may include outdoor practice and experiences. **Photo workshop at the hotel.**

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Would you like to rename our Seasonal Meeting? What are your favorite meeting sites for meetings? Two online membership surveys covering these and other topics are available at www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Your responses to these surveys provide guidance to the Executive Board to develop the CBC's annual and long-term strategic plans. **Please respond to the surveys starting Dec 15 thru Feb 20. We value your input!**

Central/Southwestern Texas Bonus Trip

By Ron Clark

Eight of us flew into San Antonio on Friday, May 5, for eight days of birding. We started out early on Saturday morning, stopping near the hotel for Cave Swallows (Mexican subspecies) which had been found nesting in a parking garage, and Western Kingbirds, which were working on a nest atop a pole. Great-tailed Grackles and White-winged Doves were common in the area. On the way to our first stop, we saw Chihuahuan Ravens and Crested Caracaras along the roadside.



Golden-cheeked Warbler. Photographed by Ron Clark.

Kerr Wildlife Management Area was our first shot at Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. We searched for almost two hours in prime warbler habitat and found none. We did pick up Ash-throated Flycatcher, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Zone-tailed Hawk, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (recent split from Western) and the ubiquitous Bell's Vireo, heard or seen at almost every stop for the trip. We drove to another spot and heard the vireo as soon as we got out of the van. After a bit of chasing, we got good looks at one and heard two more, but still no warbler. Black-chinned Hummingbird and Lark Sparrow were added to our list.

After lunch, we went to South Llano River State Park. It has four feeding stations. Western birds seen were Rufous-capped and Black-throated Sparrows and Ladder-backed Woodpecker, but we failed again at the Golden-cheeked Warbler. After a much-needed Dairy Queen stop in Junction, we had to put the warbler behind us as we were driving west out of its territory. There would be more chances later in the week. We finished the day with 63 species.

On the way to Balmorhea Lake, we saw Cassin's Kingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird and the first of nineteen Greater

Roadrunners. The lake is known for summer Western and Clark's Grebes. There were about 20 Clark's but we didn't see any Western. Along with a few ducks, we got Wilson's Phalarope, Curve-billed Thrasher, Pyrrhuloxia, Verdin, Say's Phoebe, Bullock's Oriole, Scaled Quail, and White-faced Ibis. The local state park proved to be poor for birds.

Arriving at Davis Mountains State Park, we stopped by feeders first and picked up Black-headed Grosbeak, Scott's Oriole, Canyon Towhee and Acorn Woodpecker. Later we added Western Bluebird, Phainopepla, Canyon Wren(heard) and Western Wood-Pewee. After dinner, we staked out a power pole known for Elf Owl. After a long time watching the hole, a couple were seen flying away from and back to the pole, but not from the hole. One was heard, so we checked the other side and saw they had a back door. It was getting dark by then so we decided to try again the next night and watch that hole. As we got out of the van at the lodge, a Common Poorwill was heard down near the campground. So, we got back in the van and drove there, but it was up a hill we couldn't get to. That was species 98 for the trip.



Montezuma's Quail (Zoomies). Photographed by Ron Clark.

One area of the campground has been better for Montezuma's Quail (Zoomies). As we gathered around 6:30 to get an early start looking for them, a Rock Wren was working its way down the sidewalk. There were two hanging around the lodge. We got to the campground before seven and split up, looking for Zoomies. After a while, two were seen. We gathered up and hurried to the area. There was a pair which all got to see. A Varied Bunting was found, but not great looks. Then we were off to breakfast in Fort Davis.

At Lawrence Wood Picnic Grounds, we added Hutton's Vireo, Gray Flycatcher and White-breasted Nuthatch (interior, soon to be split). A Canyon Wren allowed itself to be seen. The only other western bird added for the day was a distant Swainson's Hawk. That evening we were back to see the Elf Owls, in better light this time. The day finished with 109 species.



Canyon Wren. Photographed by Ron Clark.



Swainson's Hawk. Photographed by Ron Clark.

On Tuesday, we had Big Bend National Park in our sights, with a few stops on the way. The first was Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Try as we might, only one person could turn the mountain into an elephant. Near the entrance, we added Lillian's Eastern Meadowlark. A singing Cassin's Sparrow finally came near enough for all to see. A bit later, we seemed surrounded by Painted Buntings, at least five. Our next stop was a few miles down one of the worst dirt roads I've seen.

A resident of the Christmas Mountains welcomes folks to her feeders. We got great looks at Lucifer Hummingbird and Varied Bunting. She also showed us a Roadrunner on a nest. It was well worth the drive. After a nice Mexican lunch in Study Butte, we headed for Big Bend. On the way to our lodging in the Chisos Mountains, we picked up the first of many Mexican Jays. We also saw Black-tailed Gnatcatcher and Wilson's Warbler before dinner and finished the day with 116 species.

On Wednesday morning, we headed for Rio Grande Village, in the park, for nesting Common Black Hawks. As we pulled up, a birder had her scope on the nest. It doesn't get any easier. We watched both adults for quite a while. We then found Gray Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Inca Dove. After lunch at our lodging, we went to Cottonwood Campground and Santa Elias Canyon, dividing the U.S. and Mexico. A Western Tanager flew across the parking lot as we approached the van and luckily stayed in the brushy edge for a view. One participant saw a White-throated Swift as we got closer to our lodging, putting us at 123 species.



Common Black Hawk. Photographed by Ron Clark.

Thursday was the day for the ten-mile walk to look for the Colima Warbler. Three chose not to do it, so five of us set out at 6:30. Our first Spotted Towhee landed in a treetop and a Band-tailed Pigeon landed in the next tree. The bird gods were smiling on us as our first Colima was seen by the trail, about 30 feet away. We watched it for ten minutes as it slowly worked its way up the hill. The group decided to finish the walk instead of turning back. Another Colima was seen and a third heard before we got to the Colima Trail. Someone coming down said there was a black bear seen in the area where we planned our lunch. We never saw the bear, but decided to eat a little farther along. Going down the other side, we saw a Brown-crested Flycatcher and a Black-chinned Sparrow. Several more Western Tanagers were seen also. Our day ended at 129 species. **/Continued P. 8**

Central/Southwestern Texas Bonus Trip/Continued

By Ron Clark



Mexican Free-tailed Bats. Photographed by Ron Clark.

Additional Species Included:

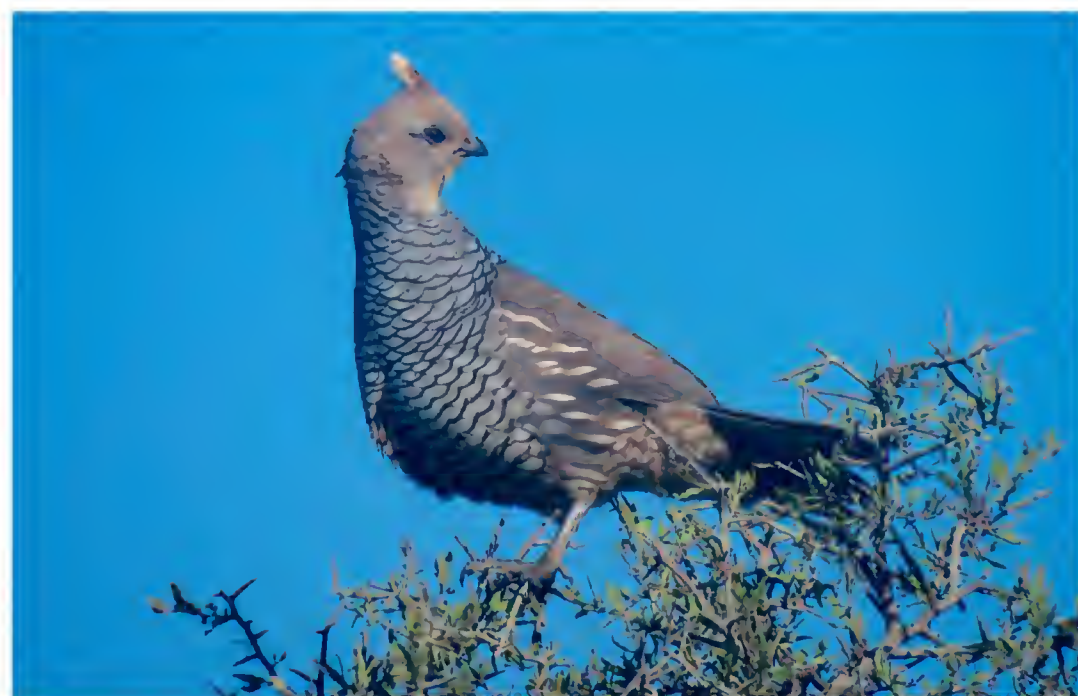


Cave Swallows. Photographed by Ron Clark.

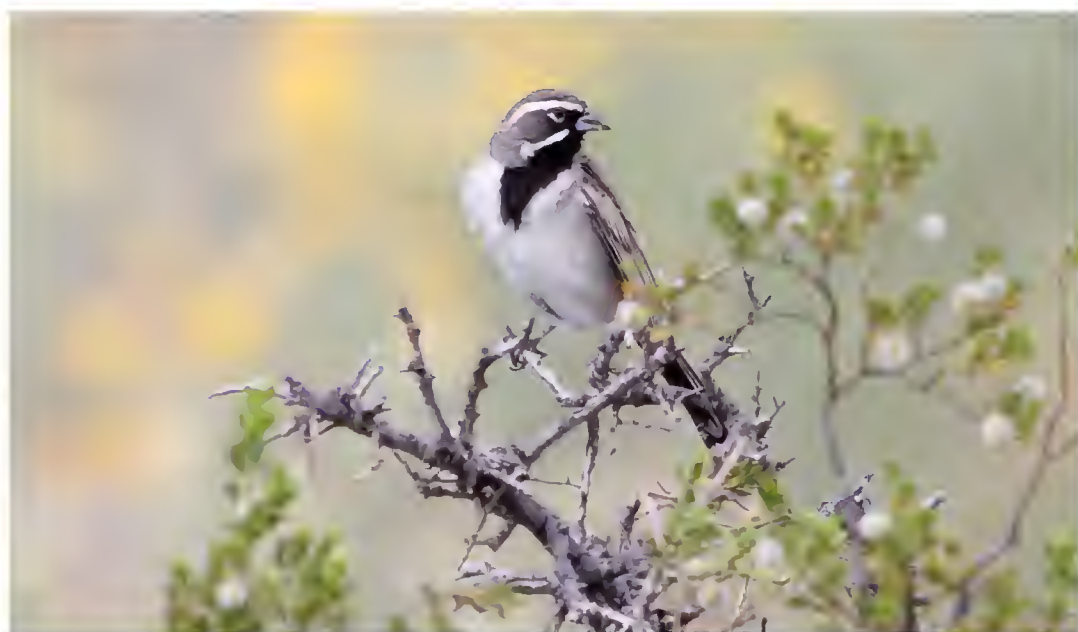
Friday was a driving day as we were lodging in Uvalde. Lunch was planned for Sanderson, which showed three restaurants. Only one was still open. Our waitress was packing a pistol on her hip and had an attitude to go along with it. We stopped at Kickapoo Caverns State Park in mid-afternoon and missed out on the Golden-cheeked Warbler, again. After dinner in Uvalde, we headed for Frio Bat Cave. After waiting for about 45 minutes, watching Cliff Swallows, the 10-12 million Mexican Free-tailed Bats started emerging. There were two exits to the cave and we stood between them, so the bats were streaming out on both sides of us. If you stood under them, the stream was 3-15 feet over you. Some flew beside you. A Red-tailed Hawk made a couple of strafing runs with talons out, but I didn't see it get anything. We watched for 45 minutes to an hour and they never let up. It was quite amazing to see. Three Lesser Nighthawks were spotted above them. On the way out, two Chuck-Will's Widows were heard, taking us to 131.

We went the next morning to Lost Maples State Park. As we stood in the parking lot, watching feeders, a Golden-cheeked Warbler sang nearby. It was spotted low in a tree, so we finally got our last target bird. Two more were heard on the trail. We picked up more birds but not any western-only ones. After lunch, we tried Garner State Park, but it was filled to parking capacity. We did a short trail and found one more Golden-cheeked, before pointing the van toward San Antonio. Somehow, we found ourselves at another Dairy Queen in Bandero. The van just pulled in, all by itself!

We finished our trip with 139 species. All seven participants got lifers. We saw ninety degrees but not much more. Some of the mornings even had a chill to them.



Scaled Quail. Photographed by Ron Clark.



Black-throated Sparrow. Photographed by Ron Clark.

Early May is a great time to be there. The birds are back, some migrants are still passing through and it's not seriously hot yet. Thanks to all for making it a great and fun trip.

CBC News and Announcements



Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the **Carolina Young Birders Club**.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org.



Seasonal Meeting Scholarship awarded to Young Birder Ian House (left). He attended the Litchfield Beach Fall meeting. Check out his blog at <http://iansbirdwebsite.blogspot.com/>

Research, educational and conservation grants are available through the Carolina Bird Club. For additional information visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Chat- Membership Notification

Beginning with the Winter 2018 issue, The Chat will be published online only. Discontinuing print publication will result in significant financial savings, a percentage of which will be deposited into the CBC Conservation Fund for future conservation efforts throughout North and South Carolina. This also of course saves trees by reducing paper consumption. The Chat has been optionally available online for several years and about a quarter of the membership has already chosen to receive it only online.

Correction Notice:

April 2017 CBC Newsletter

The recommended dues schedule to be approved:

Business: \$30.00 the correct amount is \$35.00

Family and Business are within the same category listed within the By-laws.

Thank you, Christine Stoughton-Root, President, CBC

Current Grants provided by CBC-

Geotagging Painted Buntings and researching SC wintering grounds

Investigating spatial patterns of mercury and rodenticide burdens in raptors

Assessing breeding-season home ranges of Hermit Thrush in Black Mountain NC

Geotagging Seaside Sparrow, researching their seasonal breeding grounds

Conservation Efforts Update on Rocky Point Community Forest in Georgetown County SC.

CBC participated, in 2015, in a unique conservation partnership that acquired land for public recreation and native forest restoration. Follow the link to read about the latest steps towards the opening of Rocky Point Community Forest. Winyah Rivers Foundation will monitor this community forest.

<https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/southcarolina/newsroom/south-carolina-rocky->

CBC Spring Executive Committee Election

We will need candidates to fill spots for SC Vice President and SC Member at Large.

SC Vice President is for one three-year term.

SC Member at Large is for a two year term and eligible for a second two year term.

If interested please send an email to [hq@ carolinabirdclub.org](mailto:hq@carolinabirdclub.org), so we can discuss further what is involved!

Welcome New CBC Members!

Tom Allen
Randy McCarthy
Charlotte, NC

Sean & Noah Borak
Boynton Beach, FL

Ronald Britt
Carolina Shores, NC

Steve & Diane Coggin
Salisbury, NC

Charles Crispell
Simpsonville, SC

Emily Davis
Hanahan, SC

Bill Davison
Fort Mill, SC

Toby Gordon
Terry Schupbach-Gordon
Tobaccoville, NC

Janet Kurz
Southport, NC

Howdy Nicklas
Johns Island, SC

David Palmer
Greenville, SC

David Pennebaker
Roxboro, NC

Mary Kay Robinson
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Dawson Smith
Beaufort, SC

Leslie Sprigg
Charles Golomb
Matthews, NC

Andrea Stoney
Chapel Hill, NC

Bill Tynan
Candler, NC

Carol Vaughn
Columbia, SC

John & Leslie Watschke
Southern Pines, NC

Eric Willman
Beulaville, NC

Birds of North Carolina; their Distribution and Abundance

The [Birds of North Carolina](http://carolinabirdclub.org) is now hosted at carolinabirdclub.org! This site aims to provide a compendium of all of the bird species recorded in North Carolina, with general information about their distribution in the state. It is a huge project by Harry LeGrand, with assistance from Nate Swick and John Haire, and technical wizardry by Tom Howard. Much of the data that underlies the project has come from Carolina Bird Club members, as published in Briefs for the Files and General Field Notes in [The Chat](#).

Online registration at www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Wrightsville Beach, NC Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (____) ____ - _____ Evening Phone (____) ____ - _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____ x \$30 = \$_____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) ____ x \$35 = \$_____

Buffet Dinner _____ x \$32 = \$_____

Field Trip Sign-up	A.M. 1 st /2 nd Choice	P.M. 1 st /2 nd Choice	All-day 1 st /2 nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right. Meeting registration at the door costs \$40.

Total Enclosed = \$_____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club
and send to: CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Before sending in this form, check the website at www.carolinabirdclub.org to see if any of your trips are full, rescheduled or cancelled.

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens. Register online for the best availability of field trips.

Cancellations will be refunded if received by 1/12/2018

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org. If you need to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.

If you registered for the buffet and elect the vegetarian option, check here: _____ # persons _____



Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

Carolina Bird Club, Inc.
1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter 2018—Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina

Spring 2018—Flat Rock, North Carolina

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cssrbdr@gmail.com

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CBC Newsletter Editor: Vivian Glover, Orangeburg, SC,
newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org

**Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of
December, February, April, June, August, and October.**

www.carolinabirdclub.org—UPDATE

The ***CBC Newsletter*** is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. **Current dues are**: Individual & non-profit, \$30; Family and Business, \$35; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Life, \$500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

Membership dues include access to the CBCs two publications the ***CBC Newsletter*** and ***The Chat***. Tax deductible as required by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@\$5.45, 25@\$13.40, 50@\$27.00, and 100@\$54.00.

Join the CBC at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/>. Enter change of address at <https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/>. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2017.

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